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TIVICAY is a prescription HIV medicine that is used with other antiretroviral medicines to treat Human Immunodeficiency Virus-1 (HIV-1) in adults and children 12 years of age and older and weighing at least 88 pounds. It is not known if TIVICAY is safe and effective in children younger than 12 years or who weigh less than 88 pounds.

In SINGLE, a clinical study with 833 patients who had never taken HIV treatment before:

- **More patients got to undetectable (less than 50 copies of HIV-1 RNA in a milliliter of your blood) with TIVICAY 50 mg once daily and abacavir sulfate + lamivudine than with Atripla.[®]** In the study, 88% of patients who took TIVICAY with abacavir sulfate + lamivudine were undetectable vs 81% of patients taking Atripla at 48 weeks.

Patients who took TIVICAY with abacavir sulfate + lamivudine had an average CD4 cell count (CD4 cells are T-cells that help fight infections) increase of 267 cells/mm³ (the number of CD4 cells per cubic millimeter of blood) vs 208 cells/mm³ in patients who took Atripla at 48 weeks.

- **Fewer patients stopped taking TIVICAY due to side effects.** In the study, 2% of patients taking TIVICAY with abacavir sulfate + lamivudine stopped taking medication due to side effects vs 10% of patients taking Atripla. The most common mild side effect for patients on TIVICAY was trouble sleeping—affecting 7% of patients on TIVICAY and 3% of patients on Atripla. The most common medium to severe side effects for patients on TIVICAY were trouble sleeping—affecting 3% of patients on TIVICAY and 2% of patients on Atripla; and headache—affecting 2% of patients on TIVICAY and 2% of patients on Atripla.

In SPRING-2, a clinical study with 822* patients who had never taken HIV treatment before:

- **It was shown that TIVICAY[†] worked as well as raltegravir[†] in getting patients to undetectable (less than 50 copies of HIV-1 RNA in a milliliter of your blood).** 88% of patients who took TIVICAY[†] were undetectable vs 86% of patients taking raltegravir[†] at 48 weeks.

About half of the patients who took TIVICAY[†] or raltegravir[†] had a CD4 cell count increase of at least 230 cells/mm³ (the number of CD4 cells per cubic millimeter of blood) at 48 weeks. The other half had increases of 230 cells/mm³ or less.

- **Few patients stopped taking medication due to side effects.** 2% of patients taking TIVICAY[†] stopped taking medication due to side effects vs 2% of patients taking raltegravir[†]. The most common mild side effect for patients on TIVICAY was trouble sleeping—affecting 1% of patients on TIVICAY and less than 1% of patients on raltegravir. The most common medium to severe side effect for patients on TIVICAY was nausea—affecting 1% of patients on TIVICAY and 1% of patients on raltegravir.

*808 patients were included in the study results.

[†]Taken with either abacavir sulfate/lamivudine or emtricitabine/tenofovir.

Your results could vary.

Ask your healthcare provider if TIVICAY is right for you.

What is TIVICAY?

TIVICAY is a prescription HIV medicine that is used with other antiretroviral medicines to treat Human Immunodeficiency Virus-1 (HIV-1) in adults and children 12 years of age and older and weighing at least 88 pounds. HIV-1 is the virus that causes Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). It is not known if TIVICAY is safe and effective in children younger than 12 years or who weigh less than 88 pounds.

TIVICAY does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS. You must stay on continuous HIV-1 therapy to control the HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

Who should not take TIVICAY?

- **Do not take TIVICAY if you take dofetilide because of a life-threatening interaction.**

What are the most serious side effects of TIVICAY?

- **Allergic reactions. Stop taking TIVICAY and get medical help right away if you have:**
 - **A rash with any of these symptoms:** fever; general ill feeling; extreme tiredness; muscle or joint aches; blisters or sores in your mouth; blisters or peeling of your skin; redness or swelling in your eyes; swelling of your mouth, face, lips or tongue; problems breathing.
 - **Any of the following signs or symptoms of liver problems:** yellowing of your skin or whites of your eyes; dark or tea-colored urine; pale-colored stools (bowel movements); nausea or vomiting; loss of appetite; pain, aching, or tenderness on your right side below the ribs.

- **Changes in liver tests.** People with a history of hepatitis B or C virus may have an increased risk of developing new or worsening changes in certain liver tests during treatment with TIVICAY. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your liver function before and during treatment with TIVICAY.
- **Changes in body fat** can happen in people who take HIV-1 medicines, including increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the middle of your body. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The exact cause and long-term health effects of these problems are not known.
- **Changes in your immune system** can happen when you start taking HIV-1 medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you start having new symptoms after starting your HIV-1 medicine.

What are the other possible side effects of TIVICAY?

- The most common side effects of TIVICAY include trouble sleeping and headache.

Tell your healthcare provider about any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

These are not all the possible side effects of TIVICAY.

Important Safety Information continued on next page.

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What should I tell my healthcare provider before I take TIVICAY?

Before taking TIVICAY, tell your healthcare provider if you:

- have ever had an allergic reaction to TIVICAY
- have or had liver problems, including hepatitis B or C
- have any other medical condition
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if TIVICAY will harm your unborn baby
- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. **Do not breastfeed** if you take TIVICAY. You should not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby. It is not known if TIVICAY passes into your breast milk. Talk to your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements you take.

TIVICAY and other medicines may affect each other, causing side effects. TIVICAY may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how TIVICAY works.

Especially tell your healthcare provider if you take:

- other HIV-1 medicines including: efavirenz (SUSTIVA®), etravirine (INTELENCE®), fosamprenavir (LEXIVA®)/ritonavir (NORVIR®), nevirapine (VIRAMUNE®), or tipranavir (APTIVUS®)/ritonavir (NORVIR).

- antacids or laxatives that contain aluminum, magnesium or calcium, sucralfate (CARAFATE®), iron or calcium supplements, or buffered medicines. TIVICAY should be taken at least 2 hours before or 6 hours after you take these medicines.
- anti-seizure medicines: oxcarbazepine (TRILEPTAL®), phenytoin (DILANTIN®, DILANTIN®-125, PHENYTEK®), phenobarbital (LUMINAL®), carbamazepine (CARBATROL®, EQUETRO®, TEGRETOL®, TEGRETOL®-XR, TERIL®, EPITOL®)
- St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)
- a medicine that contains metformin
- rifampin (RIFATER®, RIFAMATE®, RIMACTANE®, RIFADIN®)

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please see Patient Information for TIVICAY on the next pages and discuss it with your healthcare provider.

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PATIENT INFORMATION

TIVICAY® (TIV-eh-kay) (dolutegravir) Tablets

Read this Patient Information before you start taking TIVICAY and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This information does not take the place of talking with your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment.

What is TIVICAY?

TIVICAY is a prescription HIV medicine that is used with other antiretroviral medicines to treat Human Immunodeficiency Virus-1 (HIV-1) infections in adults and children 12 years of age and older and weighing at least 88 pounds. HIV-1 is the virus that causes Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). It is not known if TIVICAY is safe and effective in children under 12 years of age or who weigh less than 88 pounds.

When used with other HIV-1 medicines to treat HIV-1 infection, TIVICAY may help:

- Reduce the amount of HIV-1 in your blood. This is called “viral load.”
- Increase the number of white blood cells called CD4+ (T) cells in your blood, which help fight off other infections.
- Reduce the amount of HIV-1 and increase the CD4+ (T) cells in your blood which may help improve your immune system. This may reduce your risk of death or getting infections that can happen when your immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

TIVICAY does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS. You must stay on continuous HIV-1 therapy to control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses.

Avoid doing things that can spread HIV-1 infection to others.

- Do not share or re-use needles or other injection equipment.
- Do not share personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them, like toothbrushes and razor blades.
- Do not have any kind of sex without protection. Always practice safe sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom to lower the chance of sexual contact with any body fluids such as semen, vaginal secretions, or blood.

Ask your healthcare provider if you have any questions about how to prevent passing HIV to other people.

Who should not take TIVICAY?

Do not take TIVICAY if you take dofetilide. Taking TIVICAY and dofetilide can cause side effects that may be life-threatening.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking TIVICAY?

Before you take TIVICAY, tell your healthcare provider if you:

- have ever had an allergic reaction to TIVICAY
- have or had liver problems, including hepatitis B or C infection
- have any other medical condition
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if TIVICAY will harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking TIVICAY.

Pregnancy Registry. There is a pregnancy registry for women who take antiviral medicines during pregnancy. The purpose of the registry is to collect information about the health of you and your baby. Talk to your healthcare provider about how you can take part in this registry.

- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. **Do not breastfeed if you take TIVICAY.**

- You should not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.
- It is not known if TIVICAY passes into your breast milk.
- Talk to your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about the medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, or herbal supplements. TIVICAY and other medicines may affect each other causing side effects. TIVICAY may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines

may affect how TIVICAY works.

Especially tell your healthcare provider if you take:

- other HIV-1 medicines including: efavirenz (SUSTIVA®), etravirine (INTELENCE®), fosamprenavir (LEXIVA®)/ritonavir (NORVIR®), nevirapine (VIRAMUNE®), or tipranavir (APTIVUS®)/ritonavir (NORVIR).
- antacids or laxatives that contain aluminum, magnesium or calcium, sucralfate (CARAFATE®), iron or calcium supplements, or buffered medicines. TIVICAY should be taken at least 2 hours before or 6 hours after you take these medicines.
- anti-seizure medicines:
 - oxcarbazepine (TRILEPTAL®)
 - phenytoin (DILANTIN®, DILANTIN®-125, PHENYTEK®)
 - phenobarbital (LUMINAL®)
 - carbamazepine (CARBATROL®, EQUETRO®, TEGRETOL®, TEGRETOL®-XR, TERIL®, EPITOL®)
- St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)
- a medicine that contains metformin
- rifampin (RIFATER®, RIFAMATE®, RIMACTANE®, RIFADIN®)

Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you are not sure if your medicine is one that is listed above.

Know the medicines you take. Keep a list of them to show your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.

How should I take TIVICAY?

- Take TIVICAY exactly as your healthcare provider tells you.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking TIVICAY without talking with your healthcare provider.
- Stay under the care of a healthcare provider while taking TIVICAY.
- You can take TIVICAY with or without food.
- If you miss a dose of TIVICAY, take it as soon as you remember. If it is within 4 hours of your next dose, skip the missed dose and take the next dose at your regular time. Do not take 2 doses at the same time. If you are not sure about your dosing, call your healthcare provider.
- If you take too much TIVICAY, call your healthcare provider or go to the nearest hospital emergency room right away.
- Do not run out of TIVICAY. The virus in your blood may become resistant to other HIV-1 medicines if TIVICAY is stopped for even a short time. When your supply starts to run low, get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy.

What are the possible side effects of TIVICAY?

TIVICAY may cause serious side effects, including:

- **Allergic reactions.** Call your healthcare provider right away if you develop a rash with TIVICAY. **Stop taking TIVICAY and get medical help right away if you:**
 - **develop a rash with any of the following signs or symptoms**
 - fever
 - blisters or peeling of the skin
 - generally ill feeling
 - redness or swelling of the eyes
 - extreme tiredness
 - swelling of the mouth, face, lips,
 - muscle or joint aches
 - or tongue
 - blisters or sores in mouth
 - problems breathing
 - **develop any of the following signs or symptoms of liver problems:**
 - yellowing of the skin or whites of the eyes
 - dark or tea-colored urine
 - pale-colored stools or bowel movements
 - nausea or vomiting
 - loss of appetite
 - pain, aching, or tenderness on the right side below the ribs
- **Changes in liver tests.** People with a history of hepatitis B or C virus may have an increased risk of developing new or worsening changes in certain liver tests during treatment with TIVICAY. Your healthcare provider may do

PATIENT INFORMATION

tests to check your liver function before and during treatment with TIVICAY.

- **Changes in body fat** can happen in people who take HIV-1 medicines. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the middle of your body (trunk). Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The exact cause and long-term health effects of these problems are not known.
- **Changes in your immune system (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome)** can happen when you start taking HIV-1 medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you start having new symptoms after starting your HIV-1 medicine.

The most common side effects of TIVICAY include:

- trouble sleeping
- headache

Tell your healthcare provider about any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

These are not all the possible side effects of TIVICAY. For more information, ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist.

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

How should I store TIVICAY?

- Store TIVICAY at room temperature between 68°F to 77°F (20°C to 25°C).

Keep TIVICAY and all medicines out of the reach of children.

General information about TIVICAY

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Patient Information leaflet. Do not use TIVICAY for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give TIVICAY to other people, even if

they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

You can ask your pharmacist or healthcare provider for information about TIVICAY that is written for health professionals.

For more information call 1-877-844-8872 or go to www.TIVICAY.com.

What are the ingredients in TIVICAY?

Active ingredient: dolutegravir sodium

Inactive ingredients: d-mannitol, microcrystalline cellulose, povidone K29/32, sodium starch glycolate, and sodium stearyl fumarate. The tablet film-coating contains the inactive ingredients iron oxide yellow, macrogol/PEG, polyvinyl alcohol-part hydrolyzed, talc, and titanium dioxide.

This Patient Information has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Manufactured for:

by:



ViiV Healthcare
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709
August 2013

TVC:1PIL

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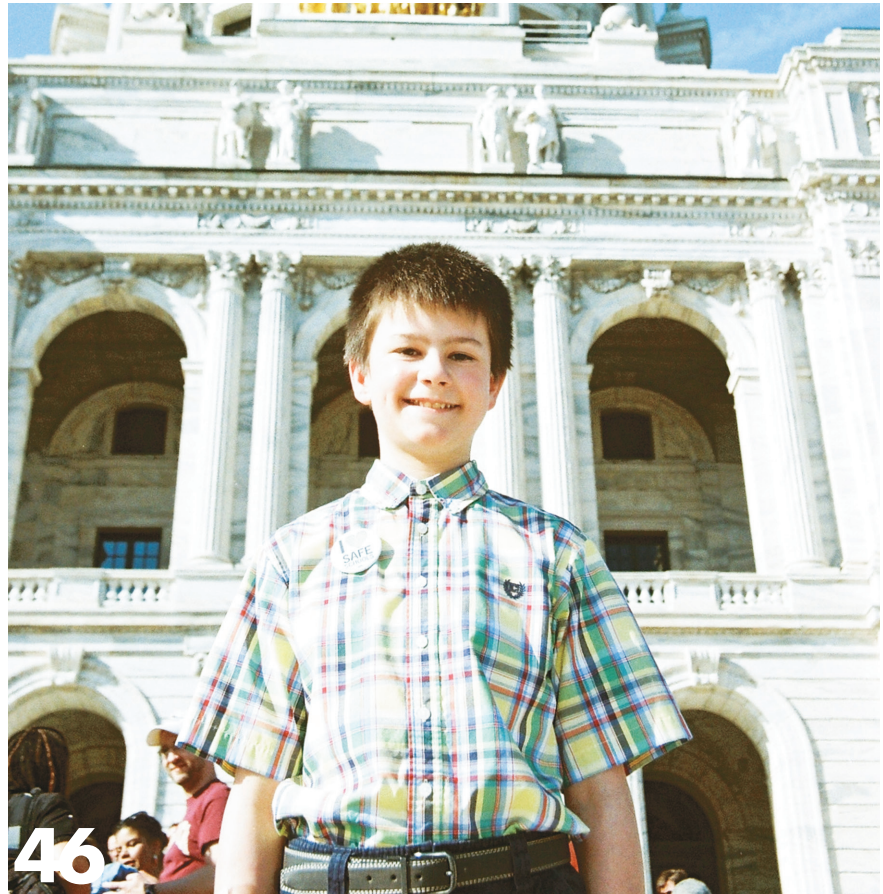
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ON THE COVER

Lavender's Children & Family Quarterly features a Modern Family: Christopher Jozwiak, Anders Carlson, and baby Hugo.
Photo by Brett Dorrian
www.brettdorrianartistrystudios.com



Page 46: Photo by Sophia Hantzes. Page 22: Photo by Richard Fleischman. Page 24: Photo by Hubert Bonnet. Page 70: Photo by Steve Lenius.

CORRECTION

The bench used in the cover and features photo shoot for Issue 493 should have been credited as being provided by Covet Consign & Design in Minneapolis, www.covetconsignanddesign.com



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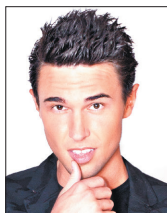
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"We Can Do It!"

This is an issue full of optimism. I don't know if I've ever looked at one of our magazines as it's gone to press and seen such a remarkably cogent and consistently affirming body of work. Not everything is sunshine and daisies, but even the negatives spin toward survival. It's a testimony to potential. There aren't as many limits on the people of this community and it's beginning to show in lives being lived openly and without reservation. It's not just that "It Gets Better," it's full of the spirit of "We Can Do It!" that reminds me of Rosie the Riveter in her iconic poster.

It was no mistake that we paired up our annual School's OUT Issue with a Children & Family Quarterly, since it casts a wide net across a certain segment of our community. But, it's also a nice piece to read for those of us who don't have kids, aren't kids, and maybe aren't planning to have kids, simply due to the fact that we can read about what all of these people are doing and find what applies to us in terms of courage, tolerance, hardship, and limitlessness.

That's what this optimism is, it's limitlessness.

This is an era in our history that will be defined by limitlessness. Minnesota, more than a number of other states, has evolved into a place where the members of this community can dream of lives that might be lived, now that so many limits have been removed. No, it's not a utopia for anyone, but it's got a framework and is moving toward having an infrastructure that will support the people of this community in more aspects than ever, including marriage, having families, playing in sports, not being bullied at school, in addition everything and everyone covered by the Minnesota Human Rights Act which was amended in 1993 to cover sexual orientation, including protecting transgender individuals from discrimination. Of course, limitlessness isn't always just handed over, unchallenged, but the infrastructure and the people who have, are, and will be trained to enable and encourage this limitlessness are increasing in number and reach.

And where better for this encouragement of limitlessness to happen than in our schools and in our reproductive freedom? Have you noticed how reproductive freedom is about choice, not just for terminating or continuing pregnancies, but also the freedom to do what Chris and Anders (on the cover) did in figuring out a way to have baby Hugo? Reproductive freedom, by definition, includes the enabling and encouragement of limitlessness in reproduction. Though I can't find any pairings of reproductive freedom with same-sex rights, the activists would be prudent to get on that wave as this is how inclusion should expand the topic. Reproductive freedom means that we are free to give our gametes (sperm and eggs) to others to enable them to have children; we are free to lend our wombs to people as gestational carriers. This is an exciting time as we embark on this journey of legal same-sex marriage and the baby carriages that can follow, now in more of a—dare I say—traditional sense than ever.

Inseminations, surrogacies, and adoptions will become more matter of course as we progress through these next years. I predict a great jump in service providers who will make it their business to ease the legal and medical processes for same-sex couples to have

children, however it's done, including artificial insemination, in-vitro fertilization, surrogacy, and adoption. Having looked into taking my own reproductive future into my own hands at age 37, I know for a fact that setting myself up to try to have a baby on my own can be as simple as doing some research and putting items in an online shopping cart prior to making an appointment at a reproductive clinic not even 5 miles away from me. Limitlessness with a credit card number and a few clicks of a mouse.

Of course, all of this takes plenty of time and thought. Parenthood is not a flippant choice to be made, but, then again, it's not like there is a high chance of accidental pregnancies in this community. These choices take deliberation and intention. And, after all the thought and consideration, it's still a choice. We can do it. Or, we don't have to do it. How very empowering.


Then, if the choice is to have a family, we can look to a great number of examples in this issue for kids to be able to grow up in an increasingly tolerant and safe society. Yes, there are the negative examples—the current and grandfathered coping mechanisms that we will hope to see transitioning out of our society—that are responses to negative circumstances. Estranging ourselves from hateful family members, such as Nathan Phelps did, or shutting down our feelings, such as Cody W. did, are valid and they have been survival tactics for many, that will hopefully be needed less and less as we continue to evolve. And, as a testament to the changing times in Minnesota, there is an overwhelming majority of positive examples of kids and adults who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, gender non-conforming, and straight allies in the issue, both as contributors and as subjects. The diversity doesn't end with those distinctions, but continues to include People of Color, athletes, older students, ROTC, first generation students, students from a variety of economic backgrounds, and students who organize to continue fighting for the rights of the people of this community and beyond.

We find ourselves facing a future of opportunities to teach and learn, no matter what our age is or who we are surrounded by: kids, adults, family members, coworkers, legislators, health care providers, friends, faith leaders, to name a few. Let's find the examples of teaching and learning that we want to emulate and strive to become good examples, ourselves. ■



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A Time to Mourn and a Time to Dance: A "Faulty Legacy"

"It would be in extremely poor taste if someone were to protest my father's funeral just because they disagreed with him. Everyone is entitled to respect in death. What monster would go out of their way to upset my family when we're grieving?"

Thus pled Shirley Phelps-Roper following the recent death of Fred Phelps, her father and head of the Westboro Baptist Church, ironically echoing pleas of the hundreds of families picketed by the Westboro congregation while they attempted to lay their own loved ones to rest.

Nathan, Fred Phelps's estranged son, mourned his father's "23-year campaign of hate," but believes that Phelps's extreme hatred has often served to draw diverse communities together in opposition to Westboro's vile actions.

I'm reminded of Hank Williams's refrain in his song, "The Tramp on the Street": "He was some mother's darlin' he was some mother's son / Once he was fair and once he was young." I have no idea whether the elder Phelps was anyone's darlin', but his raising was such that he programmed his own to believe, "My father was a great man who

did no harm to anyone. So what if he beat his own wife and children? Doesn't any good, loving father do that?"

No, they don't. Nor am I writing asking forgiveness for the man or his actions. I can forgive only wrongs done me, not those committed against others. Such "forgiveness" would be a presumption of powers I do not possess, a power belonging only to the injured.

Phelps was not alone; his congregation continues and there are others worldwide, from Texas to Uganda, who share his warped ideology. "Any man's death diminishes me," wrote poet John Donne, but the most magnanimous effort I can muster is to share his Nathan's generous words from the statement he released:

"I will mourn his passing," he wrote, "not for the man he was, but for the man he could have been. [...] Let his death mean something. Let every mention of his name and of his church be a constant reminder of the tremendous good we are all capable of doing in our communities. [...] My father was a man of action, and I implore us all to embrace that small portion of his faulty legacy by doing the same." ■

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Left to right: Ryan Schmisek, Debra Yerigan, Dan Goldberg and Vija Brookshire

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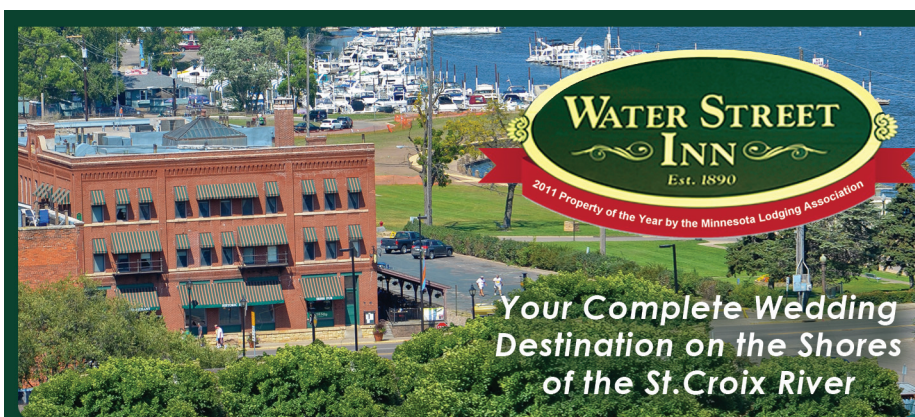
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| BY BARRY LEAVITT

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GolfZone • 825 Flying Cloud Drive, Chaska

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May 10 • 9pm

eagleBOLTbar • 515 Washington Ave. S., Minneapolis

Head down to eagleBOLTbar as they wish Jason Little, Mr. Minneapolis Eagle 2014, lots of luck and success as he heads to Chicago to compete at International Mr. Leather. They'll bring Jason up for some on stage questioning to give him a little IML practice and let him share in his joy as he prepares for Chicago. They'll also be auctioning off some great leather and toys that have been donated to help with some of Jason's travel expenses. Search "Mr. Minneapolis Eagle Send Off Party" on Facebook for more information, and follow Jason's journey to IML at www.facebook.com/MME2014Jason.

GIVE OUT DAY

May 15

On May 15th, the GLBTQ community and allies across the country will come together for 24 hours of generosity. Watch as our dynamic Minnesota GLBT organizations compete for local prizes of \$15,000 and try to win the National Title of most individual donors! Prizes are based on the number of individual donations, so every organization has a great chance of winning one of the prizes. On Give OUT Day itself people will be able to see which organizations are getting the most gifts – in real time – by checking out the Minnesota Leader Board on the Give OUT Day home page. http://giveout.razoo.com/giving_events/giveout14/home. The day of giving culminates with a party from 8-11pm at Mason's, 528 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis.

19TH ANNUAL ART-A-WHIRL

May 16 • 5-10pm

May 17 • Noon-8pm

May 18 • Noon-5pm

Northeast Minneapolis

www.nemaa.org

Northeast Minneapolis Arts Association (NEMAA) is proud to present the 19th annual Art-A-Whirl May 16 – 18, 2014 in Northeast Minneapolis, Minnesota. Art-A-Whirl has become the largest weekend-long open studio tour in the country. Approximately 30,000 visitors attend, and over 500 NEMAA Artist Members display their artwork in over 60 locations throughout Northeast Minneapolis, including studio buildings, art galleries, homes, storefronts, businesses, and restaurants. Art-A-Whirl provides an opportunity to tour private artist studios, ask questions, discuss techniques, experience art first-hand, and purchase unique artwork directly from the artists, all while enjoying the Northeast Minneapolis neighborhood. There's also a silent auction, which allows visitors the opportunity to view and bid on over 120 pieces of art, as well as gift certificates, unique experiences, gift baskets and more. View an online artist directory, Art-A-Whirl events, or download the Art-A-Whirl map or Metro Transit bus pass at www.nemaa.org. ■

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Balloonacy. Photo by Dan Norman

BALLOONACY

Through May 4
Children's Theatre, 2400 Third Av. S., Mpls.
(612) 874-0400
www.childrenstheatre.org

Robert Dorfman is renowned for his Broadway credits but in Minneapolis he has his own significance. In the '80s he played the Guthrie in historic productions of *The Marriage of Figaro* and *Candide*; in recent years he's been seen as Shylock in the big-selling *The Merchant of Venice* and, quite recently, as the Father of Psychoanalysis himself in *Freud's Last Session*. An exquisite actor with fine sensibilities, you can now catch him at a different venue—the Children's Theatre's Cargill space.

Dorfman plays a grumpy and lonely man who has to celebrate his birthday all by himself in *Balloonacy*. However, it's as if the gods and goddesses have noticed his alienation by sending a balloon that pops up in his little apartment and has an odd-but-hilarious way of hiding out in spaces there, like the microwave or a broom closet. The balloon has a personality all its own. It's one of those shows where you often ask yourself: how did they do that?

This short little piece appeals to young children but older folks will be enchanted, too. Writer Barry Kornhauser clearly draws from the gangly physical aesthetic of Jacques Tati and from Albert Lamorisse's classic 1956 film, *The Red Balloon*. However, where the film's protagonist is a little boy, we now have a man who seems to

be well into his 50s. Is this the little boy grown up? The splendid Dorfman made me wonder about that.

BLUE MAN GROUP

Apr. 29 – May 4
Ordway Center,
345 Washington St., St. Paul
(651) 224-4222
www.ordway.org

The slick and sensual Blue Man Group inventively creates performance art that blends amphibiously kinetic physical movement with imaginative use of objects for making all sorts of sounds. A pipe is a drum. Cereal isn't eaten but to make a noise. Steel, marbles, and dental floss are part of the soundscape. Though BMG originated in a small venue, it has a wonderfully expansive feel when it unfolds in large venues like the Ordway. And let's face it, those playful performers in those tight-fitting body suits are very, very easy on the eyes, not to mention, ingeniously talented to boot!

HOMEGROWN

Through May 3
Playwrights' Center,
2301 Franklin Av. E., Mpls.
(800) 838-3006

Jeannine Coulombe is maturing into a playwright who has a truly

distinct regional voice. In *The Mill*, which was named one of *Lavender's* Top Ten productions two years ago, she searingly examines issues of labor and race relations on Minnesota's Iron Range. With her newest, *Homegrown*, produced by Workhaus Collective, she goes to Michigan's Upper Peninsula where she examines the problem of being an artist in a rural area where support is slim to nonexistent.

Coulombe says she "addresses this difficulty generationally, how the impulse to create, imagine, express yourself artistically is squashed, diverted, silenced not only for the mother in *Homegrown* but also in a myriad of ways for her children as well. The play looks at how this is done mainly through a lack of access; the isolation of not having a place to express your art, a community to help nurture it, the space to understand your creative impulse; and the lack of resources to find this space and community due, simply, to a lack of money. Without resources, it is difficult to give voice to the creative impulse, let alone a way to cultivate it. I think the main thing is that to be an artist, especially when you are first trying to figure it out, you have to have the space, time, and resources to fail. You need the privilege to fail. This family does not have that privilege. It looks at how that lack



Homegrown. Photo by Amy Sundby JeanChaiyaphum

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of privilege gives rise to subverting that creative impulse into a whole slew of vices and what you do when the vices run out. It has nothing to do with a lack of talent, but who would these characters be if they had the privilege to fail and the space, time, and resources to give voice to their creativity? What is lost in the world when only privilege allows access to creative expression?"

HOPPER DRAWING: A PAINTER'S PROCESS

Through June 20

Walker Art Center, 1750 Hennepin Av., Mpls.

(612) 375-7600

www.walkerart.org

Architecture and the human form are reflected in a profoundly distinct way by Edward Hopper (1882-1967). A Whitney Museum retrospective at the Walker Art Center offers a mesmerizing look into the man's seemingly methodical creative process. He wrote very brief descriptions of what you see in his paintings in sketches of those paintings. You'll see a combination of a rough image of the final piece and such descriptions around it. There are also studies of decontextualized particulars, such as a pair of arms, that he was likely honing so that when the arms actually appear in the final picture, they look believable.

Hopper's wife, Jo, is the primary subject of many Hopper pieces, including his nudes, some of which are displayed in one of the galleries. Like almost all of the people in Hopper paintings, there seems to be a vacant look in the faces that hints at society, work-place pressures, bricks, and mortar draining humanity of passion and core identity. Men in business attire and the sensual curves of the women reflect the tension between rigid male role-playing and the natural essence that women represent. The Walker's own famous *Office at Night* is a stellar example.

There's something quintessentially American here, whether you come from a city or a small town. Though his buildings are largely out of New York City's more industrial districts, the look is quite similar to the brick structures we see in small town America on Main Streets (and nearby them) even now, as well as warehouse and industrial districts that are still in evidence near the downtowns of both Twin Cities. Another thing that Hopper reminds one of is Old Hollywood's Film Noir—clearly he was an aesthetic influence. He seems to hint at a similar cynicism, not in black and white, however; but in haunting faded color. A gorgeous exhibit indeed.



Hopper Drawing: A Painter's Process.



Silkworms (A Nun Play).
Photo by Richard Fleischman

SILKWORMS (A NUN PLAY)

Through May 11

The Woman's Club of
Minneapolis,

410 Oak Grove, Mpls.

Tickets at door or

www.theatreunbound.org

Theatre Unbound, the region's premiere women's issues theater group, has a knack for tapping into historical themes and their current show glories in that. Based on Craig A. Monson's learned *Nuns Behaving Badly*, Isabel Nelson is lead writer for a collaboration inspired by the book's noted look into witchcraft, arson, sexual transgression, physical abuse, and male domination.

Anne Bertram has been assisting Nelson. She says Monson's book "is a great deal more scholarly than the title suggests. We came up with a few different story lines inspired by the historical episodes, and the cast built a series of images based on each one. The whole group felt pretty strongly that the most compelling story was the one closest to the history Monson relates. Starting from that outline, the cast has been building and discussing different options for the scenes. From the various proposals, Isabel and I select the elements that feel strongest. I draft the text that will be spoken. We discuss, decide, and rescind decisions a lot—we are building the process, as well as the show, as we go along.

THREEPENNY OPERA

Through May 4

Southern Theater, 1420 S.

Washington Av., Mpls.

(612) 724-3760

www.brownpapertickets.com/event/449663

When playwright Bertolt Brecht and composer Kurt Weill left Germany after Hitler's fateful 1933 power grab, their 1928 *Threepenny Opera* with its beggars and political satire surely raised red flags and swastikas as the Nazis began to single out those who ideologically stood against their agenda. It's hard to believe it's been 15 years since Frank Theatre produced the show. And the revival will be all the more interesting given that Frank and director Wendy Knox have done more Brecht shows since then. So expect an even deeper cut on the musical that best known for its tune *Mack the Knife*. It's also a designer's dream.

Costume designer Kathy Kohl shares that her approach was guided "by certain givens: I needed to differentiate it from my 1999 *Threepenny Opera* design; it should reflect today's eclectic street look, including street pop, so there are flashes of color amidst the faded neutrals; a limited budget and a large cast. The 1999 design looked back to the 19th century, with 20th century touches. In the 2014 version, we're firmly set post-millennium, with a notable nod to the 18th century of John Gay's original take, *The Beggar's Opera*. These particular beggars are collectors and Joe Stanley's stunning prop warehouse set design opened the door wide for me to turn their costumes into mini-collections of pieced-together recycled clothing and found items."

She adds, "This feeds nicely into that small budget. I have pulled from my own and Frank's stock for a no-cost source of a pant leg here, a sleeve turned into a hat there, a belt cut down to a clerical collar. This is my favorite recipe for a costume: gather what's on hand, chop into little pieces, and muddle together." ■

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TASTE BUDS WITH PAT EVANS | PHOTOS BY HUBERT BONNET

BoneYard Kitchen & Bar



(From left): Pat Evans, Chef Jason Bush, and General Manager Jamie Trainis at Uptown's new BoneYard.

SOUTHERN COMFORT MEETS MINNESOTA NICE

The name may sound a little macabre, but BoneYard Kitchen & Bar is one of the most vibrant new joints to hit Uptown in a while. Located in the space Old Chicago used to occupy on Hennepin Avenue, the people who created the hugely successful Crave are bringing on a taste of Southern comfort and hospitality to Minnesota nice with their latest venture.

"It's about tradition with sincere gratitude for the neighborhood," insists general manager Jamie Trainis. "And we're really looking forward to bring-

ing that home with our food and modern mixology. The key ingredient with all of this is to cook with it and to serve with it...and hopefully it feels like a home away from home."

About that down home food, the kitchen at BoneYard is headed by Executive Chef Jason Bush who hails from Georgia. (His beard looks like something he's channeled from one of the characters on *Duck Dynasty*, only he's much better looking.)

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"There are some recipes on the menu that are inspired by my aunt's, one in particular is the bacon-wrapped duck meatloaf," he explains. "My cousin David used to have a duck farm when I was kid so there was always duck meat around. Whenever Aunt Duane made meatloaf she made it with duck meat instead of ground beef."

Another dish getting a lot of lip smacking praise is the fried chicken and waffles. No telling what would have happened if Scarlett O'Hara had dished this up for her beloved Ashley, he might have left Melanie in her grits.

For somewhat healthier choices there are some options. The lighter fare includes the bronze snapper, bourbon-glazed salmon, flavorful sweet tea-grilled chicken, and a few tasty salads.

Now to something sweeter than



magnolias in bloom. Peach cobbler is a runaway crowd pleaser which can easily be shared, but only if you really like who are with.

I realize it might seem a little bit corny, but I actually believe Jason Bush is sincere when he says, "I want people to be able to come into BoneYard, feel like they are sitting at a grandma's table in the South, and feel what it would be like to be able to eat dinner there." Got that ya'll? ■

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OUR SCENE

ARTS & CULTURE | ON THE RECORD | BY ED HUYCK



BOY GEORGE *This is What I Do*

Boy George's first album in 18 years has put the older, and apparently wiser, iconic leader of Culture Club back in the public eye. It's a pity that the album itself is so uninspiring. The tunes here are largely watered-down reggae with bits of pop music tossed in, all over-produced within an ounce of its life. Beyond that, the songs themselves aren't all that inspiring, as they feature a mix of themes that can be inspiring – religions, life, love and the like – but aren't in this context. George still has a dreamy voice, though time has ravaged it a bit. His former smooth-as-silk delivery has roughened, which manages to give the songs a bit more grit than they truly deserve.



THE GAYEST COMPILATION EVER MADE, VOLUME II

This collection certainly is in the running for that title. A pack of fresh-faced artists tackle a bevy of gay-themed tunes through this 11-track set. After all, how can you argue with a tune titled "Gay Gay Gay (Gay Gay Gay)" in an effort to capture that title? The songs mostly play in the indie-pop sphere, with plenty of clean-cut sounding tunes that can help as you get ready for a night out with friends (or a night in with a very special *friend*). The tunes focus mainly on finding love and acceptance, with Greg Holden getting the strongest moment on "Boys in the Street," as a father and son struggle to find common ground. The album is a benefit for Everyone is Gay, an organization that aids GLBTQ youth.



GEORGE MICHAEL *Symphonica*

Culled from his 2011-12 tour, Michael has moved fully into the crooner stage of his career, providing a mix of a few originals and a pile of cover tunes from a wide swath of songwriters, from Yip Harburg and Johnny Mercer to Sting and Rufus Wainwright. No matter what the years and life have done to Michael the person, the man still possesses a powerful voice and a great sense of how to inhabit a song. That comes out in originals like "Through" and "Have You Ever Been Loved" and into the classics, from Elton John's "Idol" to Terrance Trent D'Arby's "Let Her Down Easy." And while it may not have all of the power of the original, Wainwright's "Going to a Town" pack a wallop in George's hands.



ERIK KOSKINEN *America Theatre*

After years of working as a producer, engineer and musician for local acts as diverse as Trampled by Turtles and 4 on the Floor, Koskinen moves out on his own on this raw and honest slab of country-influenced folk and rock music. Koskinen's solo album is packed with everyday Joes trying to make it in the world, struggling with love, jobs and life – sometimes with just "A Six Pack of Beer and a Pack of Cigarettes." The aural clarity of Koskinen's past producing work is on display throughout the album, making it easy to fall into each of the 10 songs here, from the folk-Springsteen-like opener "First Time in Years" through to the bitter politics of "Blood and Money" and up to the fittingly titled closer, "Slow Burn." ■

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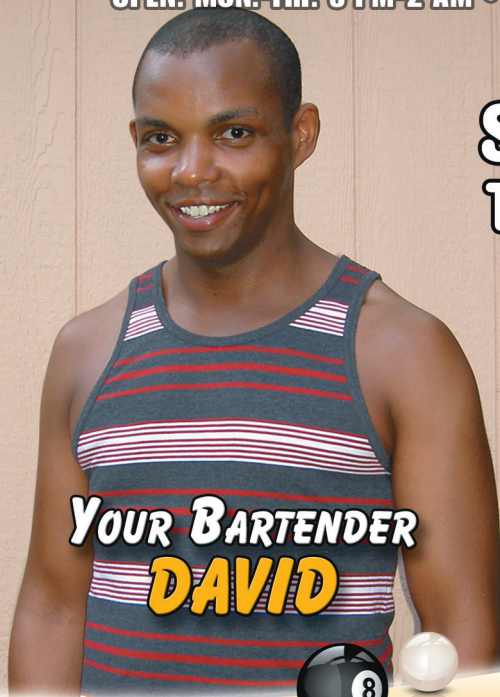
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LAVENDER CLASS OF

COMPILED BY SHANE LUECK



DOT BELSTLER

*Metropolitan State University
Master of Public and Nonprofit Administration*



Photo by Sophia Hantzes

Dot Belstler, a “soccer mom from Anoka,” is simultaneously preparing to walk across the commencement stage and set the stage for Twin Cities Pride, one of the largest GLBTQ celebrations in the country. Dot is a graduate student in Metropolitan State University’s Master of Public and Non-profit Administration (MPNA) program and is currently the Executive Director of Twin Cities Pride. She decided to go back to school feeling “it was something undone” and sees her degree as a platform for acquiring tools to strengthen Twin Cities Pride as a nonprofit organization. As Executive Director, she can touch thousands of lives, creating inclusive spaces for celebration, advocacy, and community-building across GLBTQ and allied communities. Since she took leadership in 2010, Dot has strengthened the governance and strategic planning infrastructure of the organization, increased the inclusion and accessibility of and for diverse GLBTQ communities, and strengthened community partnerships. She sees Pride as a year-long opportunity for community outreach and prides herself on holding corporate partners accountable using the Corporate Equality Index. Thanks to community and corporate partners and a team of more than 30 volunteers, the Twin Cities boasts the largest free pride festival in the country. Dot’s motto “Do what you love” is something she offers to others making their way out into the real world, and something she lives and breathes in her daily life. For GLBTQ graduates (re) entering the field of work, Dot states: “Keep an open mind. You don’t know what you’re capable of doing until you do it.” Dot’s heart is with nonprofits as they can make more of a difference and she has proven that if you love what you do, the possibilities are cast in every color of the rainbow.



WIL BERNSTROM

*Minnesota State University, Mankato
Political Science*



Photo by emilee elofson Photography

Wil Bernstrom (above right) is a force to be reckoned with. This political science major has been a pivotal GLBT leader on campus and in the Mankato community. In 2012, Wil formed the student group Mavericks Vote No in response to the anti-equality marriage bill. Under his leadership, students from all over campus came together to organize with Minnesotans United For All Families by making phone calls, canvassing the campus, and increasing student voter turnout. Ultimately, the hard work of Mavericks Vote No resulted in an increase in student voter turnout from 17% in 2008 to 48% in 2012, thus making the students a vital demographic to the amendment’s defeat. But his work did not stop with Mavericks Vote No. Following that campaign, Wil organized the student group SAGE (Sexuality and Gender Equality), that focused on issues like creating more gender-neutral restrooms/spaces on campus and removing Chik-fil-A from the campus food court. He produced and directed a staged version of Dustin Lance Black’s play *8*, which helped to educate the campus on the case for marriage equality. But perhaps most importantly, he served as a peer mentor to numerous students who were struggling to come out and be their true selves. Wil’s spirit and charisma are inspiring to his peers; he not only helps students who are seeking the courage to come out, but he motivates people to get involved and take on leadership roles. After his graduation, Wil is looking forward to continue his work to see that progressive candidates, who share his values of justice, fairness and equality, continue to be elected to the governments that serve us. He is also looking forward to marrying his partner, Bryce (above left), later this year.



RAYNISE CANGE

*Macalester College
American Studies and Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies*



Originally from New Jersey (central Jersey to be exact), **Raynise Cange** has found a home for herself in the Midwest. She says, "Despite always telling my friends that I don't like NYC, it warms my heart that, if I go home, there is a chance that I could possibly find a queer community like the one I have built here." After spending time at Macalester and not seeing many queer people of color (QPOC), Raynise ventured from Snelling and Grand to different QPOC spaces at the University of Minnesota, such as Tongues Untied, and queer spaces in Minneapolis, most which happen in the wonderful Cafe SouthSide. Raynise also spends her time volunteering at Minnesota Transgender Health Coalition's Shot Clinic and plans to become part of Trans Youth Support Network. As a part of her senior capstone, Raynise started a blog that talks about love in all capacities for women of color and QPOC, which has become a major focus. "As a graduating senior, I am trying to learn the balance of living life in a practical way that pays bills and a radical, soul-pleasing way that keeps me happy and sane," she says. "Currently, my plans are to enjoy life and define what happiness is and what actions lead to that state of mind." For undergraduates, Raynise recommends finding time for yourself and doing the things you love. "There is no reason to be apologetic about carving out time to be with yourself and enjoy who you are. If I could do anything over again, I would probably spend more time writing poetry and short stories because that's when I am at home with myself."



NATASHA CHAPMAN

*Metropolitan State University
Gender & Sexuality Studies*



Natasha Chapman is no stranger to hard work and perseverance. As a first generation and transfer student with multiple jobs and high excellent academic marks, she is accustomed to wearing multiple hats. Natasha is currently the vice president for Lavender Bridge, a longstanding GLBTQ student organization at Metropolitan State University, as well as a student assistant in the Gender and Sexuality Studies Services Office on campus. If you would have asked Natasha early in her career as an advocate, she would never have envisioned herself in any leadership roles, let alone two at a time. This experience has helped her to move supporting GLBTQ and womyn's work from behind the scenes to a very visible presence on campus. These experiences have enabled her to find her inner voice and allow the work to continue on for future generations. Natasha's next role is a transition to graduate student. She will begin a Master's program in Gender and Women's Studies at Minnesota State University, Mankato in the fall and hopes to further her exploration of feminist theory, gender literacy, and GLBTQ rights movements. Natasha hopes the program will provide her tools for social advocacy to help young girls and GLBTQ communities combat stereotypes in their daily lives, particularly those portrayed in the mass media. Natasha loves the interdisciplinary approach to gender studies and is interested in portrayals of gender and GLBTQ identities in popular culture and the intersectionality of identities. For those graduating this year, Natasha offers some insight: "Don't let others' perceptions of you stop you from reaching your goals."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34 ➔

LAVENDER CLASS OF



COOPER LAIKIND

*University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
Youth Studies*



Cooper (Coop) Laikind hails from Troy, Michigan and Swannanoa, North Carolina. After graduation they hope to devote time to becoming a person with hobbies, e.g. making music, pleasure reading, and going on long bike tours across the country. During their time in the Twin Cities, Coop has worked at Family Tree Clinic as a health educator and clinic assistant. Along with other dedicated staff, they worked toward creating a safer and more respectable clinic for trans* and gender non-conforming patients. Coop has also been an active Leadership Team member and Co-Chair of the University of Minnesota Transgender Commission, a body of University affiliated persons working for equity and access of all gender identities and expressions. Through their youth work, Coop has also had the ability to mentor gender non-conforming young people and would like to continue to do similar work after graduation. For future graduates, they recommend finding and/or creating a community of people who advocate for and support one another.



CAINON LEWIS

*University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
Chinese, Literature and Political Science*



Originally from Wisconsin, **Cainon Lewis** spent most of his youth growing up in Albertville, Minnesota with his two moms. Cainon's interest in Chinese language and politics began as a high school student, but he ended up learning German and French while in Europe before pursuing his interest in all things Chinese. Now, Cainon studies Chinese language, literature and political science at the University of Minnesota all while being a part of the Army ROTC program on campus. Throughout his college career, Cainon has been involved with the ROTC program and has benefited greatly from their teachings in how to be a leader, which Cainon says is a skill transferable elsewhere in the cadets' careers. Along with the ROTC program, Cainon volunteered time to the GLBTA Programs Office on campus. Together, Cainon and the GLBTA Programs Office created a program with ROTC to teach soldiers what it means to be queer and in the military, which was something that he struggled with greatly before creating this program. "Teaching helped me become more open and accepting with myself as well as allowed others to understand me," Cainon says. "The program also shows those soldiers who have or had not come out that it is ok and we're all a family. It's been a successful program which allows me to be a mentor to those cadets who have come out and help them when they need it or provide support." After graduation, Cainon plans to move to Seattle to work for Amazon or another Fortune 500 working in Chinese relations. In addition, Cainon also plans to create more queer training for ROTC and build connections between campuses in the western states. The advice Cainon has for GLBT undergrads is this: (1) Be yourself and love yourself no matter what. If you have to hide, it makes everything harder in life. (2) Create your own family of amazing people. (3) Take every opportunity you can get. College is the time to do and see as much as you can. (4) Make mistakes. We all do it, but now is the time to. This is where you learn. (5) Fall in love as many times as you can. You're young and you'll fall in love easily with whoever you're dating. If it ends, so what? Take those lessons you've learned and apply them to your next relationship.

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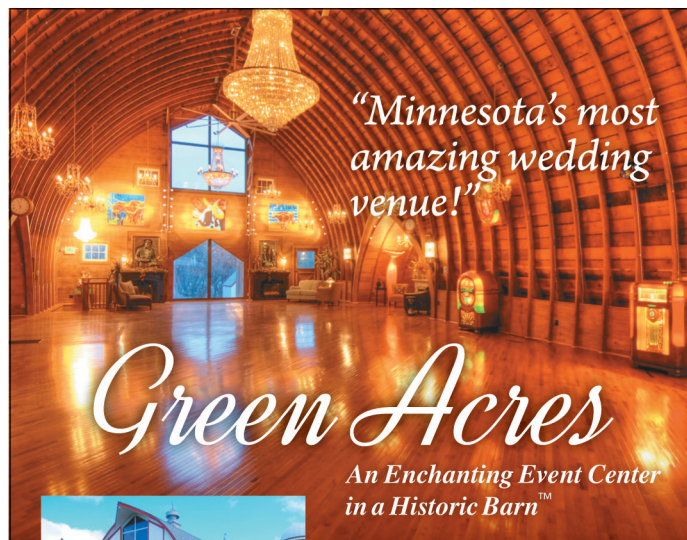


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UW SUPERIOR

YOU CAN PLAY



BY TERRY D. MCGLASSON

When I stepped to the lectern, I looked out across a room filled with more than 200 people from my university community and, with radio station microphones and TV news cameras accenting the surroundings, it really hit me: “We’ve done a good thing.” Then I began to speak.

My name is Dr. Terencio Daunte McGlasson and I am a gay, Latino professor of counseling at the University of Wisconsin – Superior, just across the bridge from Duluth, Minnesota. This is the story of a “little engine that could,” or better stated, the little university that found its voice. Early last autumn, four of us went to work on a vision of our campus, taking a human rights stand on behalf of our LGBT sisters and brothers. Each of us: Steve Nelson (Athletic Director), Tammy Fanning (Associate Dean of Students), Jack Hajewski (videographer and beloved alumnus), and myself held varying motivations for our involvement, but all were sourced in a heartfelt belief in the You Can Play Project and its underlying principles.

The You Can Play Project “...is dedicated to ensuring equality, respect and safety for all athletes, without regard to sexual orientation...it works to guarantee that athletes are given a fair opportunity to compete, judged by other athletes and fans alike, only by what they contribute to the sport or their team’s success...and seeks to challenge the culture of locker rooms and spectator areas by focusing only on an athlete’s skills, work ethic and competitive spirit.” The way the project plays out is that participating professional,

college, and high school athletic programs film a video documenting their pledge to make their locker rooms and arenas of competition safe for LGBT athletes. Upon completion, the video is uploaded to the national website, joining a chorus of voices from across the nation, all with the same basic message: “If you are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or a transgender individual and you want to be a part of our program, you are welcome here.” Not welcome are homophobic slurs, prejudicial behaviors, and any form of bias based on sexual orientation or gender identification. The familiar catch phrase repeated by the nearly 100 participating programs is simple: “If you can play...you can play,” meaning, if an athlete has the talent and the commitment to earn a spot on their roster, she or he will not be held back because they happen to be lesbian or gay.

So that was our vision—our charge—and it has proven to be one of the most inspiring projects I have ever participated in. Interestingly, as the project moved forward, our biggest challenge became the logistics of coordinating a group of enthusiastic participants that eventually numbered nearly 80 athletes and coaches, each of whom also participated in three hours of *Safe Zone* training designed to give them the basic information and skills they might need if an LGBT athlete came to them in need of support. The University of Wisconsin – Superior, the smallest campus in the UW system, turned out to be (to our best knowledge) the first school in all of Wisconsin and Minnesota to sign on to this incredible project...a distinction I hope will be long remembered.



So that leads me back to standing in front of the lectern in that crowded room. Thursday, April 10, 2014, we held a celebration banquet on campus; a simple occasion to proudly exclaim, "Look what we did." And what a celebration it was! Along with brief reflections from each of us in the planning group, the audience was treated to a personally recorded message of support from Derek Schell of Hillsdale College in Michigan, the first openly-gay NCAA Division II basketball player, and the engaging and inspirational presence of our guest speaker, Mr. Scott Cooper, an openly gay line-backer who played two seasons with the Augsburg College football team in Minneapolis (pictured opposite). The event concluded with the public unveiling of the UW Superior You Can Play video and a resounding standing ovation...truly a memorable day. Now several days later as I write, I am deeply moved and still engaged in the process of understanding what this experience really was. My university—our athletes and coaches—sent a strong message that we are trying to live up to our mission of embodying "...respect for diverse cultures and multiple voices."

At the end of the video, following the seemingly endless stream of young, sincere faces and poignant pledges, I appear on screen reciting the eternal words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., originally written on the margins of a newspaper from his jail cell in Birmingham: *"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."* I hope he would be proud. ■

Terencio Daunte McGlasson is Assistant Professor of Guidance & Counseling at the University of Wisconsin – Superior. Dr. McGlasson's nearly twenty years of clinical experience inform his expertise in the classroom, teaching courses primarily dealing with professional practice and social justice. His research and writing interests focus on lesbian and gay issues, spirituality and postmodern approaches to counseling and he frequently presents at regional and national conferences. He is active in his advocacy for the LGBT community and has also served abroad as a consultant and humanitarian volunteer in India, Nicaragua and Brazil.

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SCHOOL'S OUT: HOMEWORK AHEAD



Chad Kampe, Katie Lorenz-Walraven, and Ariel Sehr.

BY KATHLEEN WATSON PHOTOGRAPHY BY BRETT DORRIAN

Light floods in through large windows and illuminates the open space. Empty tables and chairs wait in silence as the clock slowly counts down to 3:00. The books in the library rest, preparing for an afternoon of exploration in the hands of young, eager students. This is the Mid-Continent Oceanographic Institute—a local tutoring and writing development center that provides programming to local students ages 6-18. If you walked past the building on the corner of University and Raymond in St. Paul, you probably wouldn't realize that this space is a hub for learning and academic growth. Unless a poster that advertises "free homework help" catches your eye, you'd probably continue your walk and completely miss the magic that is happening inside that building. But if you took a moment to peek through the windows on a weekday afternoon, you'd see students and adults reading, writing, and studying side-by-side. These students take advantage of the Mid-Continent Oceanographic Institute's after-school tutoring hours, one of MOI's programs that gives students the opportunity to build a strong academic and creative foundation for their future. MOI is a hidden gem in St. Paul, but a closer look at its programming and its participants prove that it's on its way to becoming a crown jewel of St. Paul's development.



THE ORGANIZATION: MID-CONTINENT OCEANOGRAPHIC INSTITUTE

The Mid-Continent Oceanographic Institute (MOI) grew out of Rock Star Supply Company (RSS Co.), which was created in 2009 by Macalester College graduates Holly Muñoz and Heather Riddle. Inspired by the work of Dave Eggers and his 826 Valencia project (the first location of what is now a national organization with 8 chapter locations), Muñoz and Riddle joined with other “musically-minded” people to start a program that would improve the educational experiences of local students. Beginning as in-school tutoring for St. Paul and Minneapolis students, RSS Co. connected creative and quirky adults with students who needed extra help in the classroom at local schools. Current Executive Director Chad Kampe explains, “We started tutoring with all these cool folks who are musicians and artists who may not look like they would help kids, but they can, and they do.” They’re rock stars in interest, ability, and desire to give back to students.

The success of the organization brought new leadership, a new space, and a new name. In the summer of 2013, Chad Kampe took the reins as Executive Director of RSS Co. As a graduate of Macalester College and Columbia University, Chad worked as a teacher before returning to Minnesota to be with his husband. During his teaching career at the Friends School, Chad was named the GLAAD Teacher of the Year for his curriculum on sexuality, health, and reproduction. Chad was hired as the Executive Director in July, with the intent of expanding the services RSS Co. would be able to provide. Joining Chad in this adventure was Ariel Sehr (another Macalester College graduate), who took on the role of Associate Director through the Americorps VISTA program.

In September, RSS Co. opened its doors on the corner of University and Raymond in St. Paul, announcing its arrival into the neighborhood with a sign reading “Free Homework Help” and

now provides after-school tutoring, workshops, and field trips. Just recently, Rock Star Supply Company began rebranding as the Mid-Continent Oceanographic Institute (MOI)—a name that will hopefully raise the interest and curiosity of our landlocked citizens. Why is it the Mid-Continent Oceanographic Institute in Minnesota? Chad explains, “The inspiration for the MOI is based on the fact that the Twin Cities are indeed landlocked. We hope to play on the humorous aspect that there isn’t any need for an Oceanography Laboratory in Minnesota. As people walk by the new store, I want them to stop and think, ‘What is that doing in the middle of Saint Paul?’ We plan to sell items like ‘Listen to the Minnesota Ocean’ (a bag of rocks) and ‘Instant Beach Party’ (sand, a bottle of water, and salt in a nifty tote bag). Our goal is to follow the similar tongue-in-cheek references that the 826 brand has created. For example, the Pirate Store at 826 Valencia in San Francisco is cheeky because there isn’t a need for a store for working pirates. So, we hope to be Minnesota’s number one researcher and supplier of ocean-related items!”

It’s important to note that MOI’s programming is inspired by the 826 model, and MOI has been selected to be in chapter development with 826 National. With the help of 826 National, MOI is currently working toward becoming an official 826 National Chapter. Chad notes, “Our programming is inspired by the 826 model, and we are currently progressing in the first phase of the 826 National Chapter Development Process. 826 National is pleased with our progress, and we are in regular communication with the organization as we continue along this trajectory toward our goal of joining the 826 National Network.” MOI’s progress will continue; plans to create a storefront and increase the number of participants are underway. Receiving the 826 National status would allow them to serve more students and invest more time in tutoring and writing workshops. It also would allow MOI to hire more staff members, enlist the help of more volunteers, and create partnerships with schools to formally publish original student work through “field trip” workshops. Even though the future is bright for



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Everyone’s having a good time at MOI.



Plenty of light, a wonderful space for collaboration and creativity.

MOI, receiving recognition as an official chapter of 826 National would provide even more opportunities for student growth.

Currently, MOI is able to carry out its work through the generosity of private donors and foundation grants. Included in MOI's list of supporting foundations are the Mithun Family Foundation, the Sauer Children's Renew Fund, and the Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund. MOI also receives support through a partnership with the St. Paul Public School Foundation, which provides training, quality, and evaluation. Though these generous gifts make MOI's current programs possible, more financial support is needed to continue and expand programming.

MOI's programming provides after-school tutoring for under-resourced youth, and no one is turned away. The majority of students drop in to the center daily to receive homework help and to practice their reading and writing. Students are encouraged to follow the daily quirky writing prompt that is posted on the wall (after homework is completed, of course) and are then allowed to type up their stories on one of MOI's computers. MOI also pro-

vides in-school tutoring all day on Fridays at a number of St. Paul schools, allowing more students to have access to tutoring. The new location has allowed MOI to triple the amount of tutoring hours provided to students in the area, and this demand is only expected to increase as more people learn about the program and gain accessibility by Central Corridor LRT.

In addition to tutoring, students are invited to attend weekend writing workshops that focus on a variety of projects (past themes include monster writing, college essay writing, and English Language Learners poetry exploration). Chad believes that the writing component of MOI "gives students the creative outlet that they don't necessarily receive in schools. Because many teachers have to work and plan for the [national standardized] tests, the teachers don't have the time to develop creative writing skills. They develop specific writing skills, but this gives them the chance to promote literacy and get students excited for writing."

The final component of MOI's programming is possibly the most pertinent: the ever-increasing number of dedicated volunteer tutors from the Twin Cities area. The volunteers are college students, adult professionals, retirees, young people from the "creative enterprise" area surrounding MOI's location, and board members who have been volunteering since the organization began. Ariel describes many of the tutors as people with cool, hip jobs and flexible schedules, saying "the idea of the volunteer is anyone who is engaged and willing to work in high school. You can be a part of a quirky, cool community and still help kids."

Tutoring is a very small time commitment each week, but only 90 minutes makes a big difference in the eyes of a student. Chad notes, "Our tutors enjoy it because they form relationships with the kids. It's fulfilling, and it's just a really good way to give back. We have one of the top achievement gaps in Minnesota, so this is a good way for people to actually do something and fix it instead of just talking about it."

THE VOLUNTEERS: KATIE LORENZ-WALRAVEN

As one of MOI's most involved volunteers, Katie Lorenz-Walraven does her part to help kids succeed in school. When Katie and her wife moved to Minnesota from Massachusetts, she started to look for work in urban education and was connected to MOI through a friend who knew Katie's educational experience. She began tutoring in November, picking up shifts on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Being a tutor allowed her to utilize the skills and training she already had, and she has since been able to observe the continued success of the students she tutors.

When she is at MOI, Katie works with a couple of students on a regular basis. The consistency allows her to follow-up about assignments and longer projects, and it allows the students to feel more comfortable with their tutor. Though she spends the majority of her time with the same students, she also floats around and checks in with others. "I'll go wherever I'm needed," she says, whether that means reading with someone,



helping a student on computers, or assisting Chad and Ariel with office duties. Her willingness to tackle new challenges with students makes her a valuable asset to MOI.

Katie's approach to tutoring is simple—she lets her true personality shine through. "I'm just myself when I'm with them—sarcastic and fun. And if they pick up on it, great. If they don't, that's ok. But talking to them—not as a teacher or as a parent, but as someone who is potentially more knowledgeable (and sometimes not!) on some stuff—allows them to become more comfortable with an adult who begins as a stranger." Though she describes her favorite tutoring subjects as "anything but math," she is always willing to learn alongside a student to help them grasp the material and complete assignments. With more advanced subjects, Katie shows the students how she learns—by reading all the materials, looking through directions, and practicing skills—and encourages them to do the same. She adds, "I try to teach them that, even if I don't know something, they still need to take the time to learn. I've had to learn with them for some subjects...I've stumbled through some math stuff that was an accomplishment when the student and I were solving problems separately and checking with each other. We finally started to get the same answers!"

Katie's favorite part about volunteering at MOI is seeing the students grow and develop. She notes, "I love to watch how the kids have progressed—academically and socially. Some kids would come, and they would be really upset that they were here. Now, because this place has grown and listened to what the students need...their excitement builds, and they are almost more excited to do their homework because we have a lot of other activities for them to do once they're done." Katie recalls the progress of one particular student who was not engaged and was set on isolating himself. Through his continued experiences at MOI, he has become more engaged, and his social anxiety has improved tremendously. But the benefits of this student's experience don't end at MOI's door. Katie believes that the confidence and interpersonal skills he has developed will help him in other social situations he may encounter.

As an out lesbian, Katie has learned how to navigate conversations about GLBT issues with kids. She says, "Most of the time, the GLBT issue comes up because they think I am a kid. They'll ask me if I have to go home because my mom's making dinner, and I'll tell them I'm married." Though most kids think nothing of it, there are times when students have expressed discomfort for Katie's lifestyle. Katie then is able to turn those situations into teaching moments, and now most students inquire about her life with her wife. Katie believes that this visibility and open dialogue is good for both the students and the GLBT community.

In the future, Katie will continue to volunteer with special events at MOI as she tackles her next project: a position with Volunteers of America. She hopes that MOI will continue to grow and improve the educational experiences of local students. She adds, "I hope they have kids waiting out the door to be placed with tutors. I hope all the seats are filled. This place is so calming and quiet; the atmosphere here is fantastic. It's nice to be in an academic setting that's not stressful at all."



Betsy and her kids, where they most like to spend their time: the Library area.

THE FAMILIES: BETSY BATEMAN

MOI and its tutors have had a profound impact on many families in the area, especially Betsy Bateman and her three children. Betsy learned about MOI through a school orientation day when her 13-year-old triplets were starting Junior High. Betsy notes, "The triplets kind of struggled in their first term. We started coming here in November, and they now come several times per week...I was just thrilled to find this place. It's so easily accessible and open to anyone who walks in the door." Since beginning their tutoring, Betsy has noticed some remarkable improvements in the triplets' academic and social lives.

After only a few months at MOI, Betsy noticed that the triplets' grades went up, and they were getting their homework done more consistently. It seemed as though they were completing their tasks with a more positive mindset. She adds,

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FOUR HARD (BUT NECESSARY) LESSONS ABOUT POST-GRAD LIFE

BY SHANE LUECK

At high school graduation parties, people always say, “Get ready for the best four years of your life.” But now you’re on the other side of those four years, waiting in a never-ending line to be called for your diploma. Now, suddenly the rhetoric has changed as people around you are saying those *were* the best years of your life. In the blink of an eye, it went as fast as it came, and now you are shaking the hand of the university’s president as he congratulates you on graduating, unsure if there will ever be another “best years of your life.” Terrible imagery, isn’t it?

It was a year ago that I received the most expensive piece of

paper of my life: a college diploma. That mere 8 1/2 x 11 sheet of paper not only cost tens of thousands of dollars, but also symbolized what was to come. Holding a diploma in your hand for the first time, the possibilities seem endless; changing the world while maintaining a social life seems plausible, for some reason. This optimism quickly gives way to reality, and that reality comes in the form of a quick, sharp slap to the face since no one at the university warned you about the “real world.”

Within the happy bubble of the university, everything is rainbows and sunshine. Advisers assure you that you’ll find a job, professors

instruct you to hold onto those final projects (they allegedly make great portfolio pieces—personally, I haven’t met an employer yet who actually wanted to look at them), and the financial aid office never lets on that crippling student loan payments await.

Newsflash: Today’s students graduate from college with heavy debts, and many aren’t reaping the benefits of that education. Last April, *New York Daily News* reported a poll showing recent grads often find jobs that don’t require a college degree, more than 40% are unemployed, and 16% are in part-time positions. What pairs with unemployment like a fine wine to a steak dinner? Debt. There are currently more than one trillion dollars worth of student loans in this country; loans that the government has so gracefully decided to charge 3.4% interest on. How nice of them! Hello, statistics and goodbye, optimism! So much for a promising future, right?

Faced with so many uncertainties about the future and some hefty debt, I did what any sane and rational person would do: go back for more. No, I was not down for the count; I take a beating and keep on going. Yes, I went back for graduate school this past fall (here you go, university, take more of my money, please). But in that space between undergraduate and graduate school, I managed to fit in a few life lessons that I wish I had expected as a senior in college.

▼ LESSON ONE: YOU ARE GOING TO BE POOR. DIRT POOR.

Most graduates are probably at least semi-prepared for this one. Especially if, like me, they had received a liberal arts or social science degree. As my parents reminded me, “You live in Minnesota...what are you going to do with a dual degree in journalism and African studies?” Touché, Mom and Dad. Touché. That whole “follow your passion” thing only takes you so far. It doesn’t necessarily pay the bills quite like an engineering degree, but I was able to brace myself.

After all, I had learned how to stretch a buck as an undergraduate: only ordering appetizers during happy hour or only buying clothes on clearance, right? Wrong. Post-grad life requires more than stretching a buck, it requires making a dollar out of fifteen cents. Now you are basically spending money on incidentals. And, to be clear, an incidental is not “We walked to McDonalds and, before I knew it, I super-sized a number four.” An incidental is like your pre-existing credit card bill. Say goodbye to your daily grande-skim-milk-non-fat-white-mocha latté. Starbucks and I once had a pretty intimate relationship, going hot and heavy for a while, but when I graduated last May we went through a bitter divorce. I still pay alimony once a month, but I can only afford that one payment.

And let’s not even discuss how quickly the school’s alumni association will begin calling to ask for “donations.” Apparently my tuition (and subsequent debt) wasn’t enough.

▼ LESSON TWO: YOUR RÉSUMÉ PROBABLY ISN’T THAT SPECIAL AND YOU’RE ACTUALLY QUITE DISPOSABLE.

Somewhere along the way, we were told that our four internships, great GPA, and senior projects were an amazing edge in the workforce. But, really, the truth is that most of the people with whom

you are competing for jobs are going to have similar qualifications. Unless you’re some sort of freaky prodigy, your résumé probably looks similar to others. Sorry to burst that bubble, but it’s true. Even if you have a pink scented résumé, Elle Woods already famously did that in *Legally Blonde*. Now, a green scented résumé... that’s different and original. But, still, the content is probably close to the same as plenty of others. You’re not special. And if you stop thinking that, your transition into post-grad life (whether unemployed or not) will be much easier. You are about to enter a world where hard work and long hours will only help you not get fired in your first two years. It’s a world where all those “you’re special” or “you’re one of a kind” talks your teachers, professors, and parents buttered you up with come to die.

Assuming you are able to land a job (tip: just keep trying; they say the average time to land a job after graduation is six to eight months), no matter what you are doing, you will most likely be at the bottom of the totem pole at your place of work. The truth is, with most entry-level positions, you are disposable to a certain extent. Like I said, there is a whole stack of résumés that look similar to yours that your employer can always fall back on. Menial tasks will fall across your desk – the things that no one else wants to spend time doing—and you smile and nod your head because, truthfully, you’re just happy to be employed. Sure, you will try to pick up the slack and seek out stuff to do to make yourself feel important, but as you waste away the hours on Buzzfeed, Twitter, and www.PostGradProblems.com, you’ll begin to meticulously cultivate an insanely low sense of self-worth that can only be saved by shopping sprees on Amazon. That is, until you have a full cart and realize you can’t actually buy these things (see lesson number one). Enlightening, I know. I promise, it gets better.

▼ LESSON THREE: UNCERTAINTIES ABOUT THE FUTURE WILL SET IN...AND YOU’LL HANDLE THEM HORRIBLY.

Post-graduation, there is this magical thing called summer. Many of us haven’t seen summer vacation in quite some time what with summer classes, internships, and working on projects that were supposed to give us an edge (see lesson two). This post-grad summer is often an experience of first and foremost applying for jobs, which can feel like a full-time job in and of itself. But that is spliced with lounging by a lake, sipping on bottomless mimosas at a rooftop brunch locale (bottomless is crucial; gotta stretch that dollar—lesson one!), or finally obliging your parents on that trip to the cabin “up north.”

At some point as you frolic through your idyllic summer experience, you’ll begin contemplating your future. You start churning over not just what the next year holds, but the year after that, and the year after that. Soon, you’ll realize that unless you want to be Charles, the 43-year-old “bachelor” with the 4×6 picture of his mom in his cubicle and the perpetual mysterious stain on his shirt from lunch that he got from the food truck across the street, you’ll have to go back in time and get a 4.0 from an Ivy League school to get that dream job at Google where you take a slide to work every day.

So you combat this foreboding sense of “eff my life” with multiple cups of coffee in order to spur you to get your life together (if you

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doubt the relationship between coffee and anxiety, simply refer to every college student ever). In a feeble attempt to follow your dreams, you'll update your résumé and LinkedIn page, and try to clean up your Facebook. But we all know that's impossible because, gosh darn it, you and your buddies looked awesome that one Halloween dressed as the guys from the Channel 4 News Team with alumni Charles bonging beers in the background. Thoughts of potential employers be damned. The next day you'll return to work and start the anxiety cycle all over again by first realizing you don't want to be Charles. But don't worry; the cycle can be broken and at some point in that summer or shortly thereafter (assuming you've actually done the work) you'll begin to settle into a workplace that is aligned with what you imagined for your future. It may seem like a giant lie as you enter your post-grad summer, but trust me. I've done it.

▼ LESSON FOUR: YOU'LL HAVE MORE FUN THAN YOU EVER IMAGINED

If I've gotten you all distraught and downtrodden with my previous three lessons, I apologize. You could say that my first year out of college has made me a cynic. I'll own up to that, but, truthfully, I wish someone had told me these harsh lessons somewhere along the way instead of forcing me to figure them out the "hard way." There's no

doubt that you'll experience a year of pain and self-questioning during your post-grad fun hangover. Welcome to the real world chump, good thing you spent your senior year working harder than Lindsay Lohan trying to get sober to get that 3.7 GPA.

Yes, there are some hard lessons to learn that must be taken with a grain of salt, but that first post-grad year is also a time for exploration and fun. My final, and perhaps most important lesson, is to enjoy yourself. Enjoy the work you end up doing and enjoy the occasional get together (and subsequent financial splurges) with friends. I mean, you'll be doing this for the rest of your life, so you might as well have fun with it. Despite my best efforts to scare you into the depths of never wanting to grow up (something I call Peter Pan Syndrome), I promise it's really not that bad. Yes, anxieties about finding a job abound, but that also means you finally have the opportunity to try things you've always wanted to: travel to a new locale, even if it's just a neighboring town, or go on an adventure with a friend to that new vintage store that opened up (even if you don't buy anything—again, gotta stretch that dollar). Enjoy all that life has to offer. Follow your joy. Whatever makes you happy, go toward it with full gusto. Maybe you have to take on a not-dream job on the side to help financially, but keep the end in sight. Within a year or two you will have gained crucial experience in the workplace of your choice. Even if you were initially disposable, with this new experience, God knows you're now as irreplaceable as Beyoncé. ■

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STICKS AND STONES: THE SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE SCHOOLS ACT

BY SHANE LUECK

Over the past year, *Lavender*, with OutFront Minnesota, has reported on the fight to pass legislation against bullying in schools. Writers urged anyone that would listen to get involved with the Safe Schools for All Coalition (a group of more than 90 education, disability, youth, religious, GLBT and social service organizations, as well as individual citizens). The argument was made loud and clear that, yes, marriage equality passed, but there are so many other battles to be won.

Bullying is one of those battles.

You see, sticks and stones may break my bones. Names can really hurt me.

April 9, 2014 saw the signing of a bill aimed at toughening Minnesota's anti-bullying law by Governor Dayton. The new law – the Safe and Supportive Schools Act – defines bullying, in part, as behavior that causes physical harm or fear of physical harm and “constitutes intentional infliction of emotional distress.”

The new law, if followed correctly, would require school districts to track and investigate cases of bullying and require schools to better train staff and teachers on how to prevent it. In addition, it directs public and charter schools to adopt local policies to prevent and prohibit school bullying. School districts will also have the option to adopt anti-bullying policy language drafted by the state. The previous 37-word law required school districts to have a bullying policy but omits details on what the policy should contain.

The recently passed act also clearly defines what behaviors should be considered bullying in Minnesota schools, including online forms of bullying through social media. A May 2013 Pew study found that 98% of teens use Facebook, and the legislators acknowledge that students are increasingly communicating online by including cyberbullying in the new law.

This act has been years in the making, with the Dayton Administration and members of the Minnesota Legislature working since 2011 to assess the threats and challenges posed by school bullying. Following the investigative re-

search period, they worked to develop legislation to strengthen bullying protections for Minnesota children. The Safe and Supportive Schools Act includes the recommendations of the Governor's Task Force on the Prevention of School Bullying—a group of Minnesota parents, community members, health care professionals, education experts, school administrators, and policymakers convened by Dayton in 2011 to develop legislative solutions to prevent bullying in Minnesota schools.

Leading up to its success in the Legislature, the act gained the support of more than 100 advocacy groups across Minnesota, led by OutFront Minnesota. From the Minnesota Parent Teacher Association to the Minnesota Association of School Administrators and from the School Nurse Association of Minnesota to the Minnesota School Counselors Association, the support has been widespread.

However, the passage of the new law has also raised some concerns. The inclusion of cyberbullying has been seen by some as policing off-campus activity, a policy which some have argued is too far-reaching on the part of school officials.

In addition, whether Minnesota schools live up to the act's name will be driven largely by the standards and guidelines put forth by the state's Department of Education, how districts apply them, and who is ultimately held accountable through this approach.

Legislators who opposed the measure argued that it would do little to reduce bullying, would remove local control from school districts, and would be too expensive to implement. Certainly the availability of resources is a real concern as school districts begin looking at how to implement the new law. However, the Safe and Supportive Schools Act greatly improves upon the previous law and sets the stage for districts to prove their commitment to creating a safer environment for Minnesota's children. ■



Jake Ross, 11, of Forest Lake, has been a young champion for this legislation. Photo by Sophia Hantzes

PLAYING FOR THE OTHER TEAM: SCOTT COOPER, AND HOW TO COME OUT TO YOUR FOOTBALL TEAM

BY NELL GELHAUS

SB Nation CFB (@SBNationCFB) tweeted on January 28, 2014: "Our @outsports has the story of the first active CFB player to publicly come out" (referring to Conner Mertens).

Scott Cooper (@shc2112) tweeted back: "Not the first."

Conner Mertens wasn't the first. Neither was Michael Sam. Scott Cooper knows he probably wasn't either, but first isn't what is important. Being openly gay on a college football team takes some balls. And not the pigskin kind.

Cooper sits across from me in a bustling coffee shop in Uptown. Though he recently completed his college football career, he looks every bit the muscled and rugged linebacker he was a few short months ago. Sorry boys, he's taken!

"I've always liked sports and I've always liked guys."

Sounds pretty simple, but his story is anything but.

I'm drawn to Scott's narrative because it's familiar. Raised in a conservative religious family in Michigan, he spent his youth running around outdoors with animals, and playing with his siblings. He participated in numerous sports, and along the way hid his attraction to members of the same sex, all the while being groomed for a religious career and lifestyle.

Scott describes a couple hidden high school affairs, and the turbulent initial "coming out" to his family. They thought (hoped) it was a phase, and Scott moved to Minnesota to attend Martin Luther College, where he says people attend to "either be a Lutheran teacher in a Lutheran school or go into the seminary."

When a professor in his adolescent psychology course instructed the class to cross out references in their textbooks on homosexuality being a trait that people are born with, and to replace it with the words "is a choice," Scott realized that his passionate defense inadvertently outed him to an entirely new group of people. He also realized he needed to leave.

Augsburg College provided both the rich and diverse campus life he was seeking, and the sport he'd been missing. Coming out to his teammates was inevitable, especially since he was living as an openly gay man on campus. Some guys on the team noticed his boy-friends. Some guys on the team noticed his boy-friends.

Scott went to Auggie Assistant Coach Mike Matson, who also served a chaplain to student athletes. Together, they approached the head coach who simply said, "I knew the whole time," and also voiced his support. Led by Coach Matson, the team held a discussion group

on various topics weekly, and one particular week the subject was diversity and inclusion. It was the perfect setting, and his announcement was met with full encouragement. Scott said he was pleasantly surprised when his teammates soon began to take the initiative to use the opportunity of having a gay teammate to ask him about homosexuality.

"They were genuinely interested and genuinely trying to learn. I give them so much credit."

And, they quickly found out that a gay man made a great wingman in the bars. It's obvious from my coffee conversation with Scott that he's naturally charming with a big personality. Girls would flock to him, and he'd happily toss them in the direction of his ogling teammates.

Cooper is full of funny stories like this, but he repeatedly emphasizes the respect his teammates showed. After his announcement, he found unlikely allies, including the one defensive player in the locker room he was most uneasy around. Scott recalls overhearing a side conversation between that teammate and another player who used the word "fag" in conversation. The teammate stared directly at the other player, and gruffly said "Don't ever say that word again." Support given, point made. Others would also monitor locker room language on his behalf.

Scott realized that during his second year with the Auggies, he'd have to come out to incoming freshmen all over again. With the confidence he naturally radiates, Cooper didn't opt to play defense. Instead, when he caught wind of freshmen asking, "We heard there's a gay linebacker?" he'd immediately pipe up. "That's me!"

Why was Scott Cooper's experience a success story? From what I can determine, the following made a huge impact:

1. The college culture was welcoming and accepting, particularly in the football program.
2. Coaches and mentors on the team were supportive.
3. The football program organized discussion groups and retreats to encourage camaraderie and support.
4. Players became allies and brothers, and had his back in the locker room and on the field.

Scott has since become involved with the You Can Play Project, a national campaign dedicated to ensuring equality, respect, and safety for all athletes, without regard to sexual orientation. He recently served as keynote speaker at the UW-Superior YCP Luncheon, where he shared his experience and gave advice to athletes and program administrators.

With stories like these, "firsts" don't matter. What's significant, is that with role models like Scott Cooper, he won't be the last. ■



Photo courtesy of Scott Cooper

Children & Family

OUR LIVES | CHILDREN & FAMILY QUARTERLY | BY SHANE LUECK

MODERN FAMILY

Our Lavender Family:
Chris, Anders, and baby Hugo
Photo by Brett Dorrian

As far as stories go, here is one for the books; it sounds like a plot from a modern day romance or *The Cosby Show*. A doctor fell in love with a lawyer during professional school. They married and decided it was time to start thinking about having children. Plot twist: the couple is gay and their story shows an evolution in how families are defined and developed. In our ongoing mission to share stories about how same-sex couples can go about having their own families, in this Children & Family Quarterly we present Our Lavender Family: Chris, Anders, and baby Hugo.

Chris and Anders met while living in the same neighborhood by the University of Minnesota. Anders, in his first year of medical school, and Chris, studying for the LSAT exam, spent many hours hitting the books at the same Dunn Bros Coffee on University Avenue. When not stealing glances at each other across the coffee shop, they crossed paths while running on the Stone Arch Bridge, and again at Bobino, the wine bar where Chris worked. Eventually, after having bumped into one another numerous times, Chris asked Anders—whom Chris describes as “quieter and less extroverted”—for an ice cream date at Izzy’s in St. Paul.

A few years later, the two were still dating, had graduated, and were establishing careers. “Anders did a fellowship at the University of Vermont and we bought a cabin outside of Stowe with the idea of eventually moving out there,” Chris says. “That didn’t happen because my career took off in Minnesota and because the real estate bubble burst at about the same time.” Stuck with two mortgages and student loans, Anders spent two years out in Vermont with the couple’s dog, Ursa, and Chris commuted between Minnesota and Vermont for visits.

“After two years, Anders moved back and took an endocrinology position at HealthPartners and we bought a house in Prospect Park,” Chris says, while continuing to occasionally spend time in Vermont.

They had talked about getting married for years but had never really gotten to it, so Chris took the opportunity to



CONTINUED ON PAGE 50 ➔

Two-month-old Hugo napping on the family Chow, Ursa. Photo courtesy of Chris and Anders

Children & Family



Hugo with his dads, enjoying a bottle of milk provided by their surrogate. Photo by Brett Dorrian

surprise Anders with a wedding one weekend in Vermont, where same-sex marriage has been legal since 2009. “Throwing a surprise wedding meant stealing his driver’s license and taking it with me so I could get the [marriage] license ahead of time, finding an officiant, and getting some rings after guessing his size.”

When the couple woke up that Saturday morning, Anders asked over coffee what they were going to do that day. Chris’s answer? They were getting married. He says, “It was just us, in our sunny backyard

with the mountains in the background. It was simple and stress free and fun.”

And life went on, just as it does with every couple after the wedding. Anders is an endocrinologist and Chris is an employment lawyer, now for Baillon Thome Jozwiak & Wanta in Minneapolis. What came next? Chris says, “Anders and I were never those people who have this visceral drive to have kids, no matter what.” But, the couple began talking about the prospect of children seriously after being together for ten years. “Our thought was always,

if this can work somehow for us then we want to do it but we’re not going to force it,” Chris added. “We liked our life as a small family of me and him and our dog and we were okay with it staying that way, but we hoped it could also involve a little person or two if there was a way we could do it.”

As a same-sex couple, Chris and Anders had to answer the question, “How are we going to do this?” With close friends who had adopted, the two started exploring that path—even doing an interview with Children’s Home Society of Minnesota and

writing out a profile to be shown to expectant mothers who are looking for adoptive parents. But, during that summer of 2012, a conversation developed with friends of theirs who were also a same-sex couple and considering having a family.

The two women had been close to Chris and Anders for years. “We acknowledged our mutual needs and interests and just talked openly about what it would be like—physically, financially, and emotionally—if we did a gamete swap,” Chris says. In this case, the conversation continued for a while and

the two couples agreed to swap sperm for eggs—twice—resulting in two distinct sets of sperm and eggs to fuse. One set for Chris and Anders, the other set for the wives.

Chris and Anders were also talking with various friends in Minnesota about their plans and one of those friends, a physician Anders did his residency with at HCMC, called to say that his colleague was interested in meeting them and discussing surrogacy. The physician had overheard her talking about how much she enjoyed pregnancy and that she would be open to being a surrogate.

"Surprised—but excited—by this development, we got together to meet...and it just felt right," Chris says. The group made plans to do more research into the practicality of the process and all the necessary steps. Following this exploratory research, they sat down to dinner once again to make sure everyone was still on the same page. Spoiler alert: they were.

Chris adds, "Those initial meetings were, of course, somewhat awkward because you have to discuss very personal and difficult things with people you are just getting to know. But, for us, that awkwardness quickly faded."

The two couples became close, with Chris and Anders looking forward to meeting their children. Reflecting on the experience, Chris says, "I remember being worried about what their kids were going to think about their mom being a surrogate to a gay couple. I was nervous about questions that might come up at dinner, but my fears were unfounded. They were respectful and kind and ever since it's been fun watching them grow up, too."

With all of the necessary people in place, the next step was finding a fertility clinic. With numerous options, Chris and Anders began meetings with the Center for Reproductive Medicine in the fall of 2012, which managed all of the pre-pregnancy medical matters, such as the medical screening of everyone involved.

Before even beginning the process of getting pregnant, all parties (in this case, all three couples) are required to go through counseling and psychological testing. "This is where we discussed difficult topics like what we would do if there were multiples, birth defects, how we felt about terminating pregnancies, etc.," Anders says. "And even things like how we were going to handle all this on social media. This was intense, but very reassuring to us since everyone was in agreement."

Having passed the psychological testing, the couple then had to go through comprehensive STD and infectious disease testing and a physical exam, done through an outside clinic. The egg donor and surrogate (termed "gestational carrier") are placed on hormones for weeks to align their cycles. In March 2013, after the sperm and egg were donated and then fertilized, the couple sat with the doctor to discuss how many embryos to transfer to the gestational carrier. Anders explains, "More embryos means a higher likelihood one will take, but also increases the risk of multiples and complications. We had one really good-looking embryo so we only transferred one. It can feel like a very clinical process—we have a great picture of him as just a cluster of cells."

After the transfer, the gestational carrier returned to the clinic for several appointments, ultrasounds, and labs. "Once we safely reached 12 weeks, we were 'discharged' from the IVF clinic and started following up with our midwife group," Anders says. "We then worked on creating our birth plan, which is where you lay out the details of the delivery. We had put into the birth plan that I would deliver him," which he did, on December 7, 2013.

Following the successful delivery of their son, Hugo, Chris and Anders spent an extra two nights at the hospital. "We are so thankful for that time not only to bond with Hugo, but also to spend time with our surrogate and her husband," Chris says. "Leaving the hospital was very

emotionally difficult. There just isn't a way to thank someone for doing something so incredibly selfless and generous."

Anders adds, "We had agreed with the gestational carrier that if it worked out ok, she would pump and freeze breast milk for the first several months. This has been great, not only to get a supply of milk, but also a great reason for us all to get together every few weeks."

To many, this process can seem long and labor-intensive on everyone's part, but Chris believes it was the right choice for his family. "Going about baby-making the route we did is, frankly, somewhat overwhelming. It's a lot of science and a lot of hoops to jump through and there are a lot of things you don't have control over," he shares. "That said, in the spectrum of families that go through IVF, we were pretty lucky and things worked well for us. Many couples have complications of some sort along the way and so, even though getting there took a lot of time and was a lot of work and stress, it was all worth it."

Although Chris jokes they are refusing to think about adding any more children to the family at this point, he says it's comforting to have supportive families behind them. "It's brought some of our family closer in a way I wasn't anticipating. I think that's understandable but I also find it surprising," he says. "In our minds, Hugo doesn't all of the sudden give us legitimacy as a family—we were a family before too."

The idea of "family" has changed and been pretty fluid in the history of gay culture. How the GLBT community has defined the word family, and how the government has allowed the community to define it, have undergone drastic changes, especially in recent memory. With the changing laws around marriage equality, adoption, the IVF process, and even smaller things like hospital visitation rights, recognition of the GLBT family has shifted for the better.

"I think one of the most amazing things about gay culture throughout history has

been the ability to create our own families and communities after not having the best experiences of acceptance within either our own traditional families or mainstream culture in general," Chris says. "That resiliency and resourcefulness is something to celebrate and respect, not disregard just because some of us have clawed our way into the mainstream. While it's hard to claim that Hugo's life is mainstream—having two dads, an egg mom and her wife, a tummy mom and



Photo by Brett Dorrian

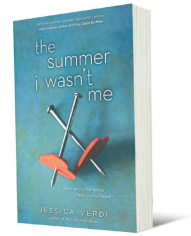
her husband and children, and a whole collection of characters that love and adore him as their own—I'm simultaneously not about to project what works for us onto other gay and lesbian folks and expect that they'd want those same things."

They're aware of at least one other family who did want to do it similarly; their friends, the wives who donated the eggs that resulted in Hugo, are nearing the delivery date of their own baby.

And, thanks to stories like these, other couples have examples to follow, in their entirety or otherwise. ■

Children & Family

BOOK REVIEW: *THE SUMMER I WASN'T ME*



The Summer I Wasn't Me
Jessica Verdi
Sourcebooks
\$9.99

Seventeen-year-old Lexi Hamilton would do anything to bring her mom back. After her dad's death some months back, her mother disappeared into her grief, and now, having discovered Lexi is gay, she is devastated.

She sends Lexi to their pastor, who tells her of a young man who went to a place that "fixed" him. Filled with remorse, Lexi agrees to spend eight weeks being "degayed" at the fundamentalist New Horizons Reparative Therapy Summer Program just outside Washington, D.C. *At what cost*, Lexi wonders. To her horror, she learns the monetary cost alone is \$9,500.

Author Verdi immerses the reader in campers' daily routine; the obligatory uniforms and crosses they must wear, the Bible reading and prayers, the conversations and conflicts within Lexi's particular assigned group of four. There's beautiful, distant Carolyn, to whom Lexi is immediately drawn; Daniel, who desperately wants to change ("I don't want these feelings, I want God to take them away...Because I'm a Christian"); and unrepentant Matthew, who has a boyfriend back home.

At the helm of New Horizons is Mr. Martin, who shares with the campers that he himself has struggled with—and overcome—his SSA (same-sex attraction) urges, and that they will, too. He spends the summer days putting the campers through harrowing public exercises, in one of which each must identify his or her "Father Wound." Matthew is told his wound

and SSA stem from liking musicals as a child, while Lexi was turned gay because her mother "dressed like a man" (i.e., wore slacks) and "shared head of household duties" with her dad.

Lexi and Carolyn begin to communicate through Lexi's copy of *The Great Gatsby*, writing notes in the margins, passing it back and forth in secret. Matthew notices Lexi's attraction, and when their group is taken on a chaperoned visit to Washington DC, he connives to have the girls spend the day alone together. Lexi summons the nerve to speak her feelings, but is crushed by Carolyn's cold response. When they return, Matthew is in deep trouble. Lexi overhears a troubling exchange between the boy and Mr. Martin during which Matthew attacks the man, an encounter which explodes later with Martin's shocking—and criminal—revenge.

Verdi handles the youngsters' conflicting emotions and dialogue with insight and humor. The varied characters are sympathetic, Lexi is sharp and learning to be herself as her eyes are opened to the hypocrisy and abuse by which she and her friends are being manipulated.

Verdi's message is clear: For adults to tell any youngsters just beginning to experience sexual feelings for another person—of whatever gender—that they are sinful, dirty, and damned, is in itself a sin. *The Summer I Wasn't Me* offers both an exciting read, and a sane, solid reference for kids in this difficult and changing time in their lives. As Lexi and her mother learn, you are *you*, complete as you were made, and do not need "fixing." ■

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TEN TIPS FOR ADULTS WORKING WITH GLBT YOUTH

Advocates for Youth, an organization that focuses its work on young people ages 14-25 in the U.S. and around the globe, recently published ten tips for parents of GLBT children. These tips are fitting, seeing that Advocates champions efforts that help young people make informed and responsible decisions about their reproductive and sexual health. Originally written by Lisa Maurer, Coordinator of The Center for LGBT Education, Outreach and Services at Ithaca College, the tips were directed at parents. Here, the tips have been rewritten to reflect the many trusted adults in a GLBT young person's life as they journey through the "coming out" process, explaining how a caring adult can be there for GLBT youth.

1. **Engage with the youth.** Ask questions, listen, empathize, share and just be present.
2. **Go back to school.** Get the facts and educate yourself on terminology, statistics, etc. Challenge yourself to go beyond stereotyped images of GLBT people.
3. **Get to know the community.** What resources are available—GLBT community center, bookstore with a selection of GLBT books, Gay/Straight Alliance at school?
4. **Explore the Internet.** There is a growing amount of excellent information on the Internet that connects people with support and materials on these

important topics.

5. **Find out where your local Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) meets.** Or, a similar support organization; finding another person you can trust to share your experience with is invaluable.
6. **Don't make it ALL there is.** Just because someone has come out as GLBT does not mean the young person's whole world revolves around sexual orientation or gender identity.
7. **ASK before you "come out" to others on the youth's behalf.** Friends and family members might have questions or want to know what's going on, but don't betray the youth's trust!
8. **Find out what kind of support, services, and education are in place at your child's school or home life.** Things like nondiscrimination policies, support groups, and "out" mentors or people to look up to all make a difference.
9. **Praise the GLBT youth for coming to you to discuss this issue.** Encourage the youth to continue to keep you "in the know."
10. **Educate yourself on local, state and national laws and policies regarding GLBT identities.** At both the state and national level, many GLBT individuals' rights are not guaranteed by law. ■



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Applications will be accepted online beginning May 1, 2014, through 4:30 pm on May 28, 2014. Additional information is available at www.stpaul.gov/firefighter or call 651-266-6500.

The City of Saint Paul is an Equal Opportunity Affirmative Action Employer. Therefore we encourage applications from all individuals including persons with disabilities, persons of color, LGBT, and women.

Bound for IML

Jason Little and Greg Menzel to represent Minnesota at 2014 International Mr. Leather Contest

Jason Little and Greg Menzel will be representing Minnesota (as Mr. Minneapolis Eagle 2014 and Mr. Twin Cities Leather 2014, respectively) in this year's International Mr. Leather (IML) Contest, Memorial Day weekend in Chicago. I recently had a chance to ask them a few questions.

What attracted you to leather?

Jason Little: A few experiences in college that I didn't know at the time were necessarily kinky, but looking at them, they were pretty darn kinky. So I really was already into kink before I made the association between kink and leather. And then when I went to the Eagle, that sense of community and mutual respect and trust really hooked me.

Greg Menzel: I've always liked leather, just the look, the smell, the feel of it. Even as a kid, going into Wilson's Leather and smelling the store was one of my favorite things. As for the community, the whole sense of brotherhood is really important—same thing that attracted me to the ideal of the Greek system when I was in college.

How are you preparing for IML?

JL: Practice, practice, practice! Practicing interview questions for the onstage interview and the offstage interview. Getting all the things I need to look right onstage. Going to the gym. Trying to connect with as many people as possible who have had some of the experiences that I'm going to go through, to ask them what advice they have for me.

GM: I've been trying to read as much as possible and getting all my gear ready. And I'm absolutely terrified of talking on stage so I've been talking to some people about that.

What do you want to accomplish with your title this year?

JL: Part of the reason I ran for Mr. Minneapolis Eagle was because I've had great experiences helping new people get into the community—people who might not fit the typical leatherman image but who have something to contribute to the community. I wanted to use this title to reach out and make them feel welcome, and give them a chance to contribute to the community. I also feel really strongly about reducing the stigma around HIV, and this title gives me a platform to further that message.

GM: My goal was getting myself more involved, and then seeing if there are ways to bring communities together more. You've got a lot of young people, and then you've got some of the Old Guard, and there doesn't seem to be a lot of conversation between the two groups. Some people are a little afraid to walk into an Old Guard kind of group. I know I was intimidated sometimes. But as I put myself out there more, it was easier to find people who were willing to talk and help, and I want to see if there's something I can do to be a part of that.

What are your thoughts now as you look forward to the upcoming IML contest weekend?

JL: My first time at IML I made so many lifelong-level friendships that I remember it was really hard for me to leave. I know that this year's going to be a very different experience because of how busy I'm going to be. But at the same time I'm so excited to see those friends I've made before, and to make even more friends and more connections.

GM: It looks like it's going to be a lot of fun. I feel like there's a lot of stress to it, and I'm going to be shuttled around from one location



Left: Greg Menzel, Mr. Twin Cities Leather 2014. Right: Jason Little, Mr. Minneapolis Eagle 2014. Photo by Steve Lenius

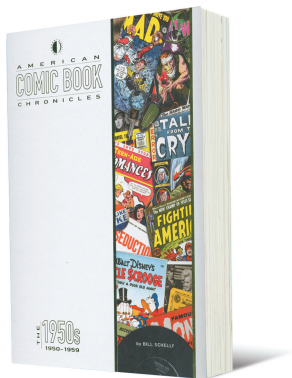
to another and one event to another. I'm really excited for the last party, the Black & Blue Ball—from what Jason was saying, it sounds like a lot of fun. It seems like it's going to be a whirlwind before that.

Both Little and Menzel have send-off events planned. Little's will be May 10, starting at 9 P.M. at the Minneapolis Eagle, held in conjunction with the Eagle's monthly Gear Night. Menzel's will be held in early May at The Saloon, where he is one of the bartenders; for date and time information, see Menzel's titleholder page on Facebook ("Greg Menzel Mr. Twin Cities Leather 2014"), the Twin Cities Leather page on Facebook ("Twin Cities Leather & Latte"), or the Twin Cities Leather website (twincitiesleather.com). Come out and wish them both good luck in Chicago as they represent the local leather community at IML. ■

For more details about the IML contest weekend, visit www.imrl.com.

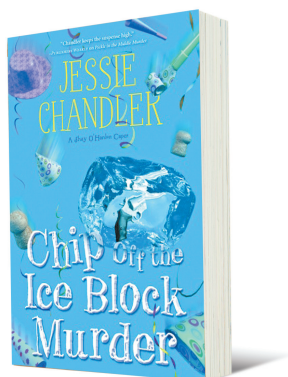
OUR AFFAIRS

BOOKS | BY E.B. BOATNER



**American Comic Book Chronicles:
The 1950s**
Bill Schelly
TwoMorrows Publishing
\$40.95

In the hands of skilled historian Bill Schelly, this volume offers a richly illustrated compendium of the comic book world in a boisterous transition time, after the Golden Age of the 1940s and ushering in the rich Silver Age of the 1960s and beyond. EC Comics' "New Trend" books, *Tales of the Crypt*, *Weird Science*; Harvey Kurtzman's *MAD*; and Carl Barks' brilliant Uncle Scrooge and Donald Duck tales took readers to the heights; while on the dark side, the U.S. Senate Hearings on juvenile delinquency highlighted by testimony from Dr. Fredric Wertham (*Seduction of the Innocent*) and Bill Gaines of EC, led to the institution of the Comics Code which affected comic book content from that time on. Artists, writers, trends, and publishers—Schelly covers them all.



Chip off the Ice Block Murder
Jessie Chandler
Midnight Ink
\$14.99

Chandler's fourth Shay O'Hanlon caper is darker—and colder—than a gray Saturday afternoon on New Year's Eve; which it is. Pete, Shay's dilatory dad, hasn't appeared to open Leprechaun, his bar, so Shay delays a getaway with partner, JT, and jumps into the breach. What else could go wrong? A corpse found dead in Rice Park, encased in a block of ice, killed by a bullet from Pete's gun, and a siege in the depths of an abandoned mental institution to name just two. Familiar characters enter and exit, and a Lisa Vecoli arrives to stunning effect. With a shrewd application of "Lorem Ipsum," the crew solves a couple of murders. And Pete? You'll read have to read *Ice Block* to find that out. ■



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Ford Fiesta



Remember the Ford Fiesta? Not the current model on sale right now, but the first one. No? Here is the story...

It was 1977. Lee Iacocca was still President of Ford. Things were going sideways at Dearborn thanks to a new product push that leaned toward efficiency while offering almost redundant products. The Torino and Elite were set aside by the LTD II and the “downsized” Thunderbird. The Maverick eventually was replaced by a new platform, the Fox. The first product off of that new chassis was the Fairmont. The Pinto, Mustang II, and the jumbo-sized LTD had seen better days.

Traditionally, Ford always sold a product from its European arm in North American showrooms. The Mark II Cortina ended sales to make way for the Capri coupe; however, that car ended up in Lincoln-Mercury dealerships instead. The Capri was soon supplanted by another idea that Iacocca signed off on—a subcompact hatchback. This time, that small car was sold at Ford showrooms.

The Fiesta was aimed at a growing European/Japanese contingent offering high fuel economy with hatchback space. The Honda Civic was growing in favor in this segment, while competing against the Volkswagen Rabbit, Renault Le Car, Mazda GLC, Datsun F10, and Toyota Starlet and Tercel. The Fiesta was also seen as competition against domestically produced models, such as the Dodge Omni, Plymouth Horizon, and Chevrolet Chevette.

Ford had a good argument against these

hatchbacks, though the segment was not as clearly defined as it is today. Yet, buyers balked at the German-made Fiesta due to its lack of automatic transmission and relatively small size. Americans were not as ready to embrace subcompacts in 1978, as they do today.

A strange thing happened a few decades later. Fuel prices skyrocketed. Many reasons were given, but a response by the entire automotive industry was needed. Ford saw how the Honda Fit and Toyota Yaris were defining the subcompact market. Dearborn also saw opportunity in the face of the competition, namely the Chevrolet Aveo and Kia Rio.

The answer came when Ford decided to re-introduce the Fiesta back in the North American market, every one sold here was built in Mexico. They trotted out the Kinetic designed body to mixed reaction. Still, the Fiesta held its own within the subcompact market here.

For 2014, the Fiesta took on some changes. A new front end denotes a second generation of the Kinetic design language. You could say the grille looks like an Aston Martin. This is the new fashion for Ford’s global products of late, a paean of its once-ownership of the British car maker. The rest remains familiar when it was re-introduced in 2010 as an early 2011 model, many angles forging a svelte hatchback profile and superb practicality.

The Titanium package adds a bit more flair to the flamboyant Fiesta. Sixteen-inch alloys with

Hankook Optimo tires create an upscale feel for the diminutive Fiesta, as does a splash of chrome in the appropriate places. The Titanium badge on the hatch could be a bit subtler, however.

The Kinetic design remains intact inside of the Fiesta. The dials are readable, if not on the small side. Switchgear is pretty decent, but worth learning how to use. The center stack is crowned by a smaller version of MyFord Touch powered by SYNC. The screen is right for averaged-sized persons, but not tall ones, as it is positioned low on the cowl even to see the backup camera screen.

Normally, a Fiesta would present a series of buttons for the infotainment system on the center stack. Choose the Titanium, and you get the eight-speaker Sony system to add to your SYNC and MyFord Touch. With the Sony system, you get a center “knob” that is a toggle for volume and tuning, along with bar switches for other audio functions. Needless to say, the Sony setup creates a clean center stack for the Fiesta. Climate controls are set up in three circles with buttons inside of them. A simple temperature readout lives in the center circle.

Before you sit down on the Titanium’s seat, feel the upholstery. That is indeed leather; something you never thought would appear on a subcompact until recently. Though it is nice to the touch, the seats take some time getting used to. They are smaller than what you might expect, but wide enough for most people. Manual adjustments for rake, recline, height, and lumbar support will ac-



commodate most drivers. Once it gets used to you, they are fine for long distances and around town.

It is a small cabin for four average-sized adults. Rear seat room is a bit tight for most adults, depending on who is sitting up front. Cargo space is quite decent and expandable. With the rear seats up, you may get enough luggage in the back to take on a weekender for 2-3 people.

The talk of 2014 is the introduction of the ultralight 1.0-liter EcoBoost turbocharged three-cylinder engine. This engine is only available on the SE model with a manual gearbox in North America. Our Titanium tester came with the 120-horsepower 1.6-liter four-cylinder motor. The best way to describe this engine is "spunky." It has enough power to take you anywhere from in town to out on the Interstate.

A six-speed PowerShift dual-clutch transmission connects the engine with the Fiesta's front wheels. Expect quicker shifts overall, but be mindful of a long first gear on full throttle. Most times, it will hit the limiter and slam down to second gear on those occasions. More concerning is at cruise, when the transmission will keep the en-

gine at higher revs on the highway. For example, if you cruise at 70MPH, the engine/transmission mix will not drop below 2,750RPM.

Ford has a reputation for good driving dynamics, especially in the ride department. The Fiesta is no exception. Though sprung softly, good tarmac gives the Fiesta a ride not unlike a Focus or Fusion. The Fiesta does its best to absorb road imperfections and shallow potholes, however it will bounce on worn highway surfaces—and not pleasantly. Expect plenty of roll and lean on the curves and cloverleafs, though the Fiesta tracks quite well on wet and slightly iced surfaces.

A small steering wheel makes good work on turns. The setup is well-weighted with good action and response. On-center feel is spot on. Normal and panic stops reveal a decent braking system with drums in the rear. The anti-lock system grabs the Fiesta, but not gracefully. Pedal response is very good.

When looking at fuel economy, Ford claims a more realistic figure for the Fiesta with the 1.6-liter engine and PowerShift dual-clutch gearbox. Our average was better than Ford's average:

33.2MPG. That figure is more realistic for the class if you do a good mix of driving year round.

If you are considering the Fiesta, there are plenty of choices to consider. The S four-door sedan with a manual gearbox starts with a sticker price of \$14,925. Choose the hatchback over the sedan, you add \$500 to your bill. However, the Titanium hatchback tester as equipped was priced close to \$22,000. If you choose the hot ST hatchback, expect to pony up at least \$22,225.

It is true that the Fiesta is up against some competition. Its rivals offer something a bit more than the Fiesta, such as space utilization in the Honda Fit, upgraded interior quality in the Kia Rio, and a lighter, more chuckable car in the Nissan Versa Note. What the Fiesta offers is solid Ford quality. That alone is worth the price of admission.

By choosing the Fiesta, you are connected back to when they were first sold as curiosities to meet consumers' needs for more fuel-efficient vehicles in the late 1970s. This Fiesta is something you can drive without the curiosity factor. There are enough on the road these days to simply prove their worth. ■

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 41

"I think they just feel more relaxed about what they're doing and how they approach tasks." In addition to seeing academic improvements, Betsy's children have been able to find a social outlet that is safe and encouraging. She notes, "My kids are shy, soft-spoken, and very sweet. They need someone to help draw them out, and I think they get that here in a very gentle way." The triplets have been able to use their time at MOI to connect with other students from their school and form friendships they might not have otherwise.

In addition to the academic improvements she's seen, Betsy enjoys how focused MOI is on writing. During her time at MOI, Betsy's daughter wrote a story which was proudly displayed on the wall. Betsy notes, "It's a creative and fun way for them to continue to learn more about writing and organizing ideas. Sometimes at school, there are certain things they have to get done. But here, there's more flexibility with what they need to do and how they approach it."

Betsy's triplets will continue to utilize the services at MOI, and she encourages other parents do so as well. Betsy hopes that more students come to MOI in the future because she thinks "they really provide affirmation for kids. They provide a lot of good feedback about their efforts to learn and grow, and I hope more students have more of an opportunity to have that in their lives."

WHAT YOU CAN DO: VOLUNTEER, DONATE, CELEBRATE!

As MOI continues to grow, the support it receives from our community also must grow. There are many ways for everyone to invest in these students, whether it's through giving time or money. Here are a few opportunities to lend a hand.



Individual homework help, student and tutor.

If you like working with kids, consider volunteering for after-school tutoring or for a special workshop. The time commitment for after-school tutoring is just 90 minutes per week. Katie Lorenz-Walraven encourages everyone to try tutoring, saying, "Just do it. Most people can walk in and be comfortable tutoring all the way up into high school level. The kids say really funny and crazy things, and that's part of the joy." Currently,

MOI is noticing an increased need for tutors who are multilingual, as many students come from East African backgrounds. If you can't commit to a weekly time slot, look into assisting with a special writing workshop or summer session. These workshops can focus on anything, from writing "monster stories" to exploring poetry as English Language Learners. Leading a workshop is a great way to share your expertise through creative activities.

For people who don't have time but have some spare change, MOI is in great need of monetary support. In addition to building costs and daily supplies, donations pay for new books for their library, materials for hands-on activities, and everything else that is required to assist students on a daily basis. Simply choose something off of MOI's wish list or donate through their Razoo page.

Finally, if you can't say no to a great party, attend MOI's prom-themed benefit at Blackbird Café on May 17th. This prom is going to be way better than everyone's faded memories of their high school proms because all the proceeds raised will directly benefit MOI. Prom attendees are encouraged to stop by BANGbang Salon before the prom for a pre-party complete with champagne, makeovers, and up-do services. Go to prom, and do it right this time—support MOI and their life-changing work! ■

For more information about Mid-Continent Oceanographic Institute, go to www.moi-mpls.org. Prom tickets are available at <https://squareup.com/market/rock-star-supply-co/prom-ticket>



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Grey Area Thinking

The letter to the small California paper *Sierra Star* was entitled “Are You Shocked?”

It begins:

“There is a teacher at Yosemite High School that is in the process of having a sex change. This teacher has informed the school district that he will return after the Easter break transformed from his former male self into a woman and is requiring to be addressed as such.”

The writer, Kathi Bales of Oakhurst, California, then argued that the high school science teacher in question, a person born with male genitalia named Gary Sconce, had signed a school contract “as a man.” The fact that Sconce would now be a woman named Karen Adell Scot was, according to Bales, a “deal breaker.” Thus, if Bales was to have her way, Karen Scot was out of luck; her 30-year, award-winning teaching career should summarily end at Yosemite High.

Easy for Kathi Bales to say.

But the letter to the editor doesn’t stop with tossing Karen Scot to the street. It gets better (or worse, depending on your perspective):

“People of the community, the point of this letter is to reveal the challenge this community is now facing and in turn, to challenge the community to become a voice against this unacceptable situation. Are we willing to fall prey to grey area thinking, like live and let live, or who are we to judge? I see this as an assault on the minds and morals of our children. It blurs the lines of what is right and wrong...I challenge the adults of this community to take a stand for our children, showing them that there (sic) is a time not to accept the unacceptable, rather to identify a wrong and stand firm against ever accepting it as a right.”

“Grey area thinking.” God forbid.

“Live and let live.” No way.

“Who are we to judge.” Hell no!

“A time not to accept the unacceptable.” Words that long ago adorned water fountains in Birmingham, Montgomery, and Little Rock.

It’s comforting to know that the good people of Oakhurst have Kathi Bales to protect them from transgender people trying to live their lives.

Not that Karen Scot couldn’t teach their children a thing or two about living authentically.

As reported in the *Fresno Bee*, Scot described her decision to come out as transgender as “like getting out of dark solitary confinement in prison where you never saw the light. You can’t believe that you are actually free...It’s being your authentic self after being a fake you.”

Unfortunately, Scot’s learning firsthand the price of freedom and

costs of living an authentic life.

In a letter to Yosemite High School employees, Scot itemized the costs thus far. In coming out as transgender, she lost her “magnificent, brilliant” wife of 35 years. She also lost her house and found herself being “shunned” by friends and family, including her church of nearly 30 years. Scot detailed that she had been “scorned and laughed at by those who had for decades said they were my friends.”

Scot has two adult children. A son has accepted her transition while a daughter has not.

If you ask me, all of that is a hell of a price to pay for finally achieving self-honesty.

Scot’s announcement about transitioning genders prompted the school’s principal to write to the parents of 650 students. The principal’s letter reminded that California law prohibits gender identity discrimination.

In other words, the law trumps letter writers like Kathi Bales.

Because much of Scot’s story parallels losses I encountered when I transitioned genders, I found myself writing to Scot. It was a human to human contact; as I’ve written in this space before, there are certain life situations where you need to reach out, where you need to show compassion and kindness to absolute complete strangers.

I had no great words of wisdom for Scot, other than to let her know that in transitioning, I had learned the difference between loss and regret. “Loss is manageable,” I wrote. “Over time, the pain subsides and perspective helps to make the loss less painful.”

“Regret,” I contrasted, “doesn’t go away. It simply gets worse. Far worse.”

I explained that until I transitioned genders, I didn’t understand how loss differed from regret. I found that I could endure the losses but would never have been able to take the regret of not transitioning. Understanding that Scot teaches high school science, I wrote, “Not for a nanosecond of a nanosecond of a nanosecond have I ever regretted my decision to live authentically as my true self.”

I included a copy of my memoir with the inscription, *Welcome to sisterhood!*

For sure, it was grey area thinking at its very best.

That’s the only way to think, dear gentle readers.

Living and helping others to live. ■

Ellie Krug is the author of Getting to Ellen: A Memoir about Love, Honesty and Gender Change. She welcomes your comments at ellenkrugwriter@gmail.com

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The Comeback Tour!

It was the middle of the day and I was still in my pajamas. I was lying on the couch watching a reality show about “real housewives” and I was covered in the pets I’ve been collecting for the past decade. We were semi-catatonic and drooling. Then the phone rang.

“You’re still in your pajamas, aren’t you?” the voice accused. It was Addison, my best gay boyfriend.

“What makes you think that?” I asked, wiping the drool from my mouth, the most effort I was willing to make to rouse myself out of my stupor.

“What’s become of you?” he moaned. What he really meant, though, was “what’s become of US.” And he wasn’t really looking for a response, because we both knew the answer.

Our 40s. That’s what happened.

Addison and I met when we were in our late 20’s. He was a handsome, charming, control freak in search of a blank slate to mess up with outlandish color. And I was that blank slate. Until he met me, he kept his distance from lesbians, whom he collectively referred to as “The Sisters Grimm.” “But you!” he said, staring me up and down as if I was a bolt of tired fabric that could easily be livened up with some rhinestones and appliqué. “You’ve got a spark.”

And so began the decade of my 30s—a riotous, joyful experiment in bad choices. Every night, with Addison’s eager endorsement, I made at least one new mistake. And each morning, with Addison serving as an attentive and encouraging audience, I had a new, humiliating story to tell over breakfast. We’d sip our coffee and merrily shake our heads over our outrageous behavior the night before.... and then vow to do it all over again the coming evening.

It was fun! It was sloppy! And, ultimately, it was exhausting! At a

certain point, late in the decade, our suburban middle-class sensibilities kicked in and we both settled down. We found “partners.” We bought “condos.” We took “family portraits in matching outfits.” As the years passed, cocktail hour crept closer to noon. It was our last vestige of naughtiness and we embraced it at the expense of our complexions and waistlines. Instead of commiserating about our nights of debauchery, we exchanged tales of Bloody Mary-fueled brunches that ended in nothing more than a hopeful exchange of glances with far too young wait staff.

“What we need is a ‘Comeback!’” Addison said. “Just like Judy Garland did each time she overdosed or got fat!”

I immediately warmed to the idea. I liked the notion of waltzing onto the stage at The Palace, as Judy did in 1951, to a raucous reception from the sold-out crowd. But, then, I remember that no one in the world is anxiously waiting for me to take stage, let alone belt out a tune.

“But what are we making a comeback from?” I asked. Even during the years that marked the height of our wantonness, we always ably managed good jobs and kept up with our gardening. It’s not as if we disappeared into an opium den for a lost decade.

“Middle-aged malaise!” he announced grandly.

“How do we ‘comeback’ from that?” I asked with mild curiosity. One of the symptoms of “middle-aged malaise” is that you see little value in getting overly enthusiastic about anything. You know too well where getting excited leads you—usually into a troubled relationship with a woman who has byzantine food restrictions.

“Well, you can start by getting out of your #%^&@ pajamas before noon. And then we’ll go from there!” ■



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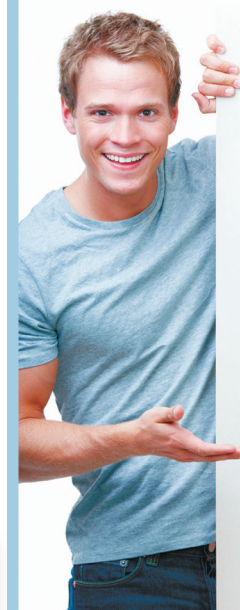
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If That's a Thing: Through the Eyes of Cody W.

As told to the author by Cody W.

I guess you can all me a sociopath. Technically. I mean, if that's a thing. Is it?

Don't get me wrong. I don't hurt people or anything. I'm just ambivalent to others' pain. I have no empathy or heartache for those who have seen tragedy. I don't know why. I just don't care.

That's not what I want to tell you, though. I want to tell you a secret. But first, a little bit about my childhood, which I don't expect you—nor do I want you—to care about. I don't think.

Third grade. I'm eight years old. My "family," comprising my biological father, his third and current wife, me, and her two sons, is at Walmart. Back to school season has arrived.

We're walking down the seasonal aisle, collecting school supplies that no kid ever uses: pocket tissue packs and hand wipes. And more glamorous stuff: colorful three-ring Trapper Keepers, glossy folders, crazy scissors, and cartoon-covered pencil cases and sharpeners.

Back to school shopping excites me. The seasonal aisle is magical this time of year: merchandising emblazoned with chalkboard font, scents of construction paper and Elmer's Glue, and Lisa Frank artwork on everything from lunch boxes to markers.

"All right, boys," my stepmother says, "time to pick your book bags."

My stepbrothers pick out boring bags patterned in boring camouflage and boring shoulder straps. I'm more methodical with my selection. I want something fabulous that

will help me stand out at school. My classmates will long for my friendship when they see me sport a pretty bag.

I choose a pink book bag with shiny zippers and cartoon graphics. I know nothing of the color pink being reserved for only girls.

I throw the bag over my shoulders and envision myself strolling into class, as cool as if I were wearing sunglasses, turning heads and feeling envied.

"No," my stepmother says. I look up at her. There's something strange in her eyes. They're suddenly watery and red. She looks mad. No, she looks more than mad. She looks *frightening*. "Girls, Cody. Pink is for girls."

"But I like it."

"I said no!" she says and yanks the bag off me. She throws it back on the shelf and puts a camouflage one into the shopping cart.

Shortly after our trip to Walmart, cruel and random punishments begin at home. They occur only in my father's absence.

I'm in third grade the first time she calls me a faggot. She tells my brothers not to talk to me and to pay me no mind when I cry. She beats me regularly and over the smallest things. She forces me to write sentences thousands of times over about what a bad boy I am, and under impossible time constraints. She forces me into freezing cold showers for hours. And I'm occasionally required to kneel on a broom stick holding books in my hands, for as long as I can consciously bear the pain.

"EAT!" she screams once at dinner when I don't finish my meal.

"I'm full," I say, sick to my stomach. I've eaten as much as I can. She forced me to take more than I wanted to begin with.

"I don't care," she says. "You're going to eat the rest of this goddamn food."

She force-feeds me the rest of my dinner, snatches my plate off the table, and fills it with more.

"Eat this," she says as she slams the plate back onto the table. I start crying.

"Please," I say.

"Please what? I'm going to teach you a lesson, faggot. Eat this until you throw up."

I don't want a cold shower and I don't want to kneel on my broom. So I do as I am told. She watches me stuff food into my mouth, until I purge it on the linoleum floor. My throat burns. My eyes water.

I'm on my hands and knees, coughing, crying. Why is she doing this? Why?

"Faggot," she calls me...

I'm in my early twenties now. I don't know where she is now. Dead, I hope.

Look, I'm not using my childhood as an excuse for being a sociopath, if that's a thing. I don't need to defend anything to you. I don't care what you think of me.

Anyway, that's not what I wanted to tell you.

The secret I want to share is this, and you will be the first person who hears it:

I don't want to be a sociopath, if that's a thing. Not that you care. Not that I want you to care. I don't.

... I don't think. ■

Cody W. lives in the Twin Cities.

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Margaret Cho

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